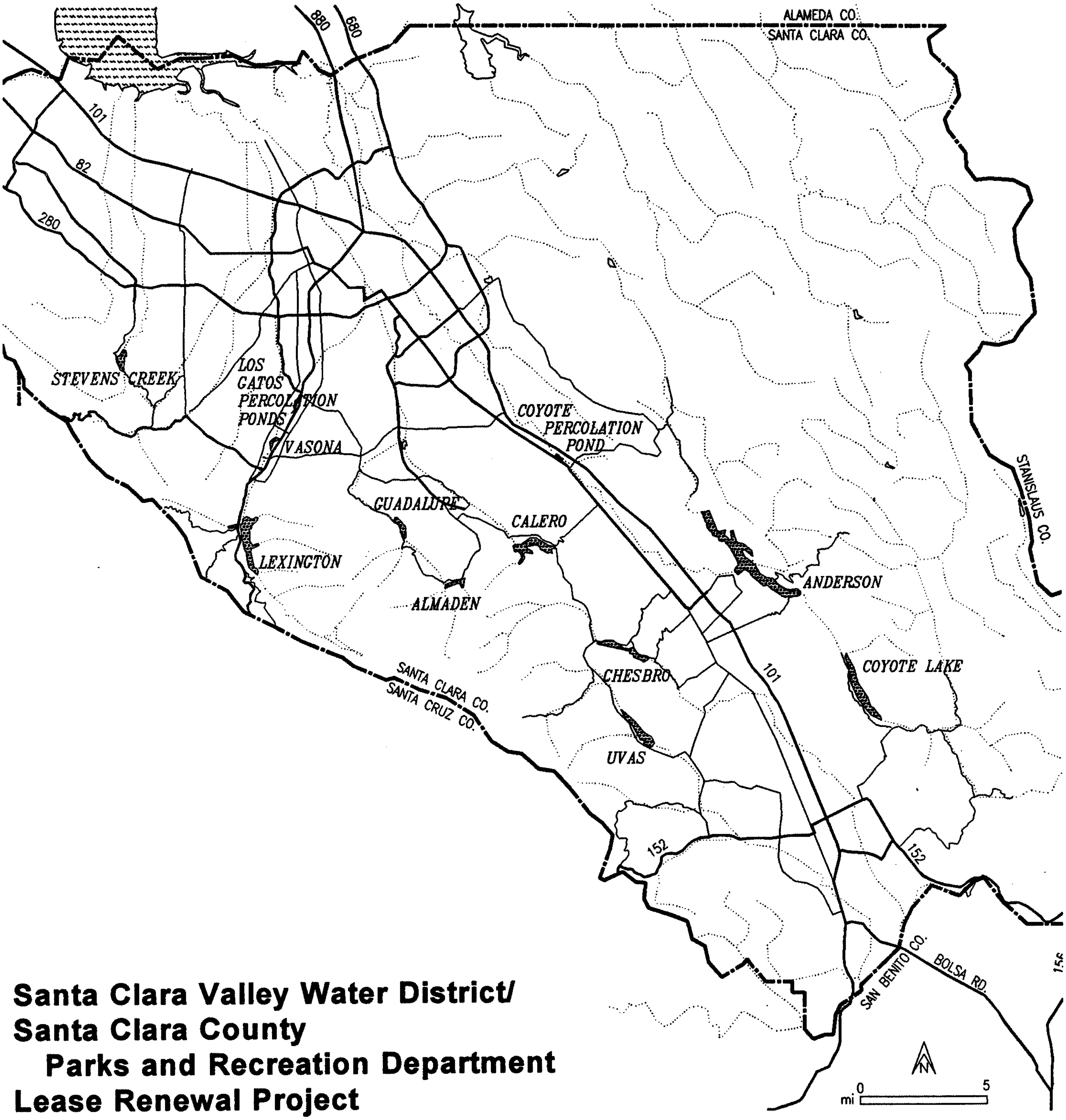

Santa Clara Valley Water District/ Santa Clara County Parks and Recreation Department Lease Renewal Project

Final Mitigated Negative Declaration and Initial Study

January 1995

Santa Clara Valley Water District

GVS4C2SS383 1995c.3

SANTA CLARA VALLEY WATER DISTRICT

LEASE RENEWAL PROJECT
FINAL MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARTION AND INITIAL STUDY

Project No: 5-9579-109

Mitigated NegativeDeclaration and Initial Study
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Mitigated Negative Declaration and Initial Study
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January 1995

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Larry Wilson	District 4		

TABLE OF CONTENTS

~~DRAFT~~ MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION

1.0 INTRODUCTION . . . . . 1 - 1

2.0 PROJECT DESCRIPTION . . . . . 2 - 1
2.1. ALMADEN RESERVOIR . . . . . 2 - 1
2.2. ANDERSON RESERVOIR . . . . . 2 - 9
2.3. CALERO RESERVOIR . . . . . 2 - 19
2.4. CHESBRO RESERVOIR . . . . . 2 - 29
2.5. COYOTE PERCOLATION POND . . . . . 2 - 37
2.6 COYOTE RESERVOIR . . . . . 2 - 43
2.7. GUADALUPE RESERVOIR . . . . . 2 - 52
2.8. LEXINGTON RESERVOIR . . . . . 2 - 59
2.9 LOS GATOS PERCOLATION PONDS . . . . . 2 - 69
2.10. STEVENS CREEK RESERVOIR . . . . . 2 - 77
2.11 UVAS RESERVOIR . . . . . 2 - 86
2.12. VASONA RESERVOIR . . . . . 2 - 94

3.0 INITIAL STUDY CHECKLIST . . . . . 3 - 1
3.1. BACKGROUND . . . . . 3 - 2
3.2. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ANALYSIS . . . . . 3 - 3

4.A. GEOLOGY AND SOILS . . . . . 4 - 1
4.B. HYDROLOGY/WATER QUALITY . . . . . 4 - 16
4.C. PLANT LIFE . . . . . 4 - 23
4.D. ANIMAL LIFE . . . . . 4 - 32
4.E. LAND USE/COMMUNITY PLANS AND VALUES . . . . . 4 - 36
4.F. ECONOMICS . . . . . 4 - 47
4.G. POPULATION . . . . . 4 - 49
4.H. HOUSING/RELOCATION . . . . . 4 - 50
4.I. TRANSPORTATION . . . . . 4 - 51
4.J. PUBLIC SERVICES . . . . . 4 - 54
4.L. ENERGY . . . . . 4 - 60
4.M. PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY . . . . . 4 - 61
4.N. AIR QUALITY . . . . . 4 - 68
4.O. NOISE . . . . . 4 - 70
4.P. AESTHETICS . . . . . 4 - 80
4.Q. RECREATION . . . . . 4 - 82
4.R. ARCHAEOLOGICAL/HISTORICAL/CULTURAL RESOURCES . . . . . 4 - 83
4.S. NATURAL RESOURCES . . . . . 4 - 89

5.0. MITIGATION MEASURES . . . . . 5 - 1

6.1. PERSONS CONTACTED . . . . . 6 - 1
6.2. BIBLIOGRAPHY . . . . . 6 - 2
6.3 DOCUMENTS PREPARATION . . . . . 6 - 6

LIST OF FIGURES

FIGURE 1.1 -- FACILITIES SUBJECT TO LEASE . . . . 1 - 2

FIGURE 2.1.A -- ALMADEN RESERVOIR VICINITY . . . . 2 - 3
FIGURE 2.1.B -- ALMADEN RESERVOIR LEASE AREA . . . . 2 - 4
FIGURE 2.1.C -- ALMADEN RESERVOIR AERIAL PHOTOGRAPH . . . . 2 - 5
FIGURE 2.1.D -- ALMADEN RESERVOIR TOPOGRAPHY . . . . 2 - 6

FIGURE 2.2.A -- ANDERSON RESERVOIR VICINITY . . . . 2 - 11
FIGURE 2.2.B -- ANDERSON RESERVOIR LEASE AREA . . . . 2 - 12
FIGURE 2.2.C -- ANDERSON RESERVOIR AERIAL PHOTOGRAPH . . . . 2 - 13
FIGURE 2.2.D -- ANDERSON RESERVOIR TOPOGRAPHY . . . . 2 - 14
FIGURE 2.2.E -- ANDERSON LAKE COUNTY PARK FACILITIES . . . . 2 - 15

FIGURE 2.3.A -- CALERO RESERVOIR VICINITY . . . . 2 - 21
FIGURE 2.3.B -- CALERO RESERVOIR LEASE AREA . . . . 2 - 22
FIGURE 2.3.C -- CALERO RESERVOIR AERIAL PHOTOGRAPH . . . . 2 - 23
FIGURE 2.3.D -- CALERO RESERVOIR TOPOGRAPHY . . . . 2 - 24
FIGURE 2.3.E -- CALERO COUNTY PARK AND RESERVOIR FACILITIES . . . 2 - 25

FIGURE 2.4.A -- CHESBRO RESERVOIR VICINITY . . . . 2 - 31
FIGURE 2.4.B -- CHESBRO RESERVOIR LEASE AREA . . . . 2 - 32
FIGURE 2.4.C -- CHESBRO RESERVOIR AERIAL PHOTOGRAPH . . . . 2 - 33
FIGURE 2.4.D -- CHESBRO RESERVOIR TOPOGRAPHY . . . . 2 - 34

FIGURE 2.5.A -- COYOTE PERCOLATION POND VICINITY . . . . 2 - 39
FIGURE 2.5.B -- COYOTE PERCOLATION POND LEASE AREA . . . . 2 - 40
FIGURE 2.5.C -- COYOTE PERCOLATION POND AERIAL PHOTOGRAPH . . 2 - 41
FIGURE 2.5.D -- COYOTE PERCOLATION POND TOPOGRAPHY . . . . 2 - 42

FIGURE 2.6.A -- COYOTE RESERVOIR VICINITY . . . . 2 - 45
FIGURE 2.6.B -- COYOTE RESERVOIR LEASE AREA . . . . 2 - 46
FIGURE 2.6.C -- COYOTE RESERVOIR AERIAL PHOTOGRAPH . . . . 2 - 47
FIGURE 2.6.D -- COYOTE RESERVOIR TOPOGRAPHY . . . . 2 - 48
FIGURE 2.6.E -- COYOTE LAKE COUNTY PARK FACILITIES . . . . 2 - 49

FIGURE 2.7.A -- GUADALUPE RESERVOIR VICINITY . . . . 2 - 54
FIGURE 2.7.B -- GUADALUPE RESERVOIR LEASE AREA . . . . 2 - 55
FIGURE 2.7.C -- GUADALUPE RESERVOIR AERIAL PHOTOGRAPH . . . . . . 2 - 56
FIGURE 2.7.D -- GUADALUPE RESERVOIR TOPOGRAPHY . . . . 2 - 57

FIGURE 2.8.A -- LEXINGTON RESERVOIR VICINITY . . . . 2 - 61
FIGURE 2.8.B -- LEXINGTON RESERVOIR LEASE AREA . . . . 2 - 62
FIGURE 2.8.C -- LEXINGTON RESERVOIR AERIAL PHOTOGRAPH . . . . . . 2 - 63
FIGURE 2.8.D -- LEXINGTON RESERVOIR TOPOGRAPHY . . . . 2 - 64
FIGURE 2.8.E -- LEXINGTON RESERVOIR COUNTY PARK FACILITIES . . . . 2 - 65

FIGURE 2.9.A -- LOS GATOS PERCOLATION PONDS VICINITY .... 2 - 71
FIGURE 2.9.B -- LOS GATOS PERCOLATION PONDS LEASE AREA ...... 2 - 72
FIGURE 2.9.C -- LOS GATOS PERCOLATION PONDS AERIAL PHOTOGRAPH .... 2 - 73
FIGURE 2.9.D -- LOS GATOS PERCOLATION PONDS TOPOGRAPHY ..... 2 - 74
FIGURE 2.9.E -- LOS GATOS CREEK COUNTY PARK FACILITIES .... 2 - 75

FIGURE 2.10.A -- STEVENS CREEK RESERVOIR VICINITY .... 2 - 79
FIGURE 2.10.B -- STEVENS CREEK RESERVOIR LEASE AREA .... 2 - 80
FIGURE 2.10.C -- STEVENS CREEK RESERVOIR AERIAL PHOTOGRAPH .. 2 - 81
FIGURE 2.10.D -- STEVENS CREEK RESERVOIR TOPOGRAPHY .... 2 - 82
FIGURE 2.10.E -- STEVENS CREEK RESERVOIR COUNTY PARK FACILITIES 2 - 83

FIGURE 2.11.A -- UVAS RESERVOIR VICINITY .... 2 - 88
FIGURE 2.11.B -- UVAS RESERVOIR LEASE AREA .... 2 - 89
FIGURE 2.11.C -- UVAS RESERVOIR AERIAL PHOTOGRAPH .... 2 - 90
FIGURE 2.11.D -- UVAS RESERVOIR TOPOGRAPHY .... 2 - 91

FIGURE 2.12.A -- VASONA RESERVOIR VICINITY .... 2 - 96
FIGURE 2.12.B -- VASONA RESERVOIR LEASE AREA .... 2 - 97
FIGURE 2.12.C -- VASONA RESERVOIR AERIAL PHOTOGRAPH .... 2 - 98
FIGURE 2.12.D -- VASONA RESERVOIR TOPOGRAPHY .... 2 - 99
FIGURE 2.12.E -- VASONA LAKE COUNTY PARK FACILITIES .... 2 - 100

SCVWD/SCCPRD
LEASE RENEWAL AGREEMENT

FINAL MITIGATED
NEGATIVE DECLARATION

SANTA CLARA VALLEY WATER DISTRICT
5750 Almaden Expressway, San Jose, CA 95118 **(408) 265-2600**

FINAL MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION

[*NEW TEXT IS ITALICIZED*, ~~OLD TEXT IS STRUCKOUT~~]

DATE: November 1994

SUBJECT: Negative Declaration, SCVWD Project Number 5-9579-109

Pursuant to the State Public Resources Code and the CEQA Guidelines, as amended to date, a Draft Negative Declaration is hereby made on the project listed below:

> Renewal of the Lease Agreement between Santa Clara Valley Water District (SCVWD) and the Santa Clara County Parks and Recreation Department (SCCPRD) that grants SCCPRD the management of SCVWD reservoirs and adjacent lands for the provision of public recreation. The lease renewal is for a 15 year period and would allow for the continuation of current levels of recreation at the 12 reservoir and percolation pond sites that are included in the lease. Approval of the lease agreement does not involve the implementation of any park improvements other than minor improvements to existing facilities.

FINDINGS

> The SCVWD Board of Directors, having reviewed the Initial Study for the proposed project and attached Mitigation Measures which reduce potentially significant impacts to a level of insignificance, find that the lease renewal project would not have a significant effect on the environment. The SCVWD Board of Directors finds the Mitigated Negative Declaration to be the appropriate CEQA document for this project.

BASIS OF FINDINGS

> The lease renewal project could result in the following adverse impacts: potential hazard to public safety at the spillway of Almaden Reservoir~~,~~*;* potential public health hazard from inadequate signing regarding mercury contamination of fish at Almaden, Guadalupe and Calero Reservoirs*; potential hazard to water quality from illegal swimming at Almaden, Anderson, Calero and Coyote Reservoirs; and potential impacts to aquatic life from fishing through the legal use of introduced bait fish species.* The Initial Study has determined that these potentially adverse impacts can be reduced to a level of insignificance by the implementation of proposed mitigation measures.

The Draft Negative Declaration was circulated for review from August 31, 1994 to October 3, 1994. This document, Attachment A, includes comment letters received on the August 1994 Draft document, responses to comments received and the mitigation monitoring plan for the lease agreeement. Documents used in preparation of the Initial Study can be reviewed at Santa Clara Valley Water District Headquarters Building, 5750 Almaden Expressway, San Jose, California.

SCVWD/SCCPRD
LEASE RENEWAL AGREEMENT

FINAL MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION AND INITIAL STUDY

SECTION 1.0
INTRODUCTION

NOTE: The Final Mitigated Negative Declaration for the SCVWD/SCCPRD Lease Renewal Agreement has been revised to reflect responses to comments received on the Draft Negative Declaration (August 1994). Revised text is *in italics where text additions have been made.* Text deleted from the document is ~~struckout~~. Replaced pages are dated at the bottom of the page with the following: "Revised November 1994".

1.0 INTRODUCTION

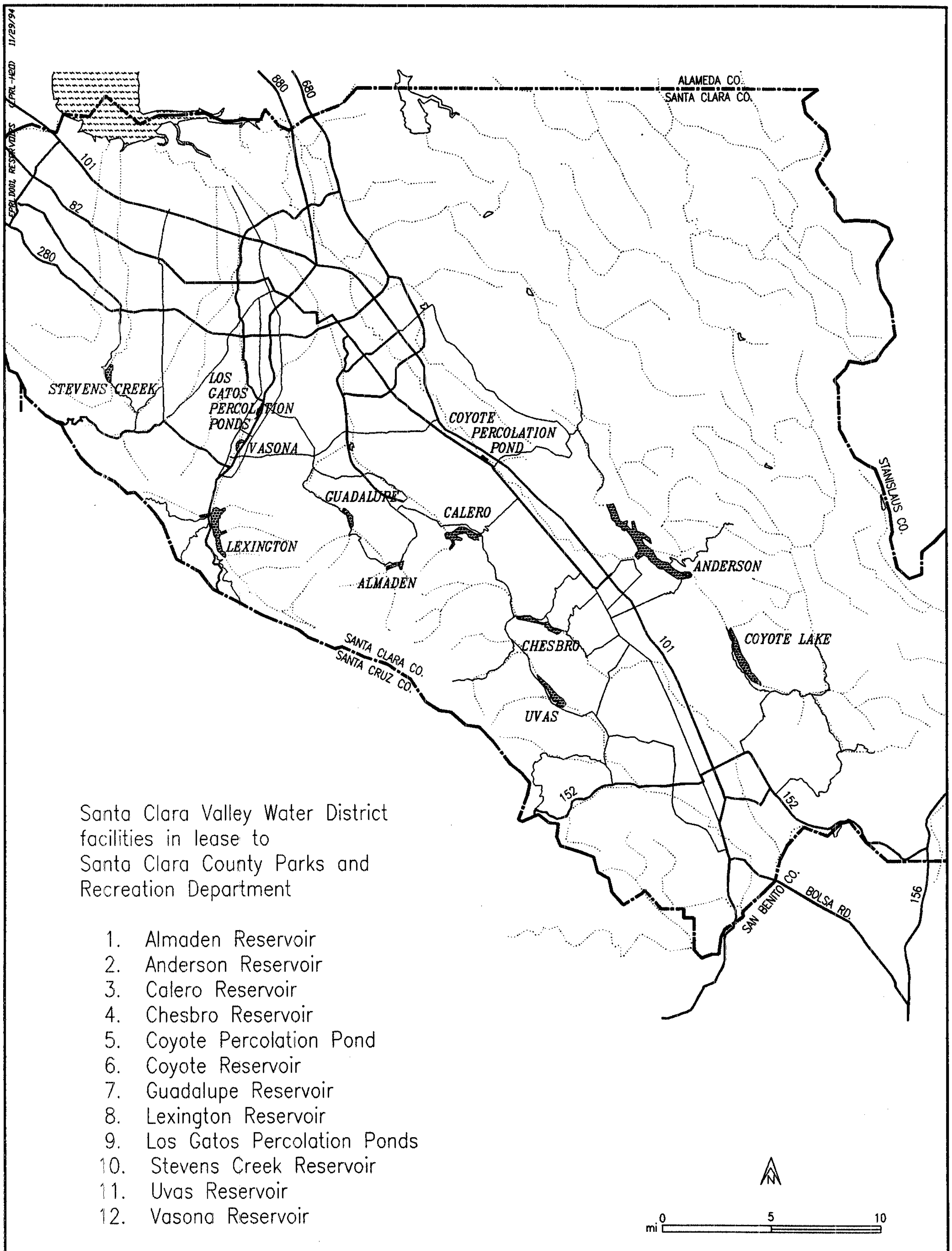
Subject of the Initial Study. This Initial Study addresses the potential environmental impacts associated with a lease agreement between the Santa Clara Valley Water District (SCVWD or "District") and the Santa Clara County Parks and Recreation Department (SCCPRD or "County"). The proposed lease would be for public recreation use of ten District reservoirs and two District percolation ponds and District lands adjacent to these facilities. The proposed lease between the SCVWD and the SCCPRD would be for a period of 15 years. The single proposed lease would serve to renew numerous individual leases which have been in effect for 20 years and which expire on December 22, 1994.

The SCVWD reservoirs, percolation ponds and adjacent lands which are the subject of this lease agreement are shown on Figure 1.1., Facilities Subject to Lease:

1. Almaden Reservoir
2. Anderson Reservoir
3. Calero Reservoir
4. Chesbro Reservoir
5. Coyote Percolation Pond
6. Coyote Reservoir
7. Guadalupe Reservoir
8. Lexington Reservoir
9. Los Gatos Percolation Ponds
10. Stevens Creek Reservoir
11. Uvas Reservoir
12. Vasona Reservoir.

As lessor, the District assumes the role of lead agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The "project" under CEQA which is the subject of this initial study is the lease renewal which would allow continuation of existing recreational activities for the next 15 years.

FIGURE 1.1 -- FACILITIES SUBJECT TO LEASE



Santa Clara Valley Water District
facilities in lease to
Santa Clara County Parks and
Recreation Department

1. Almaden Reservoir
2. Anderson Reservoir
3. Calero Reservoir
4. Chesbro Reservoir
5. Coyote Percolation Pond
6. Coyote Reservoir
7. Guadalupe Reservoir
8. Lexington Reservoir
9. Los Gatos Percolation Ponds
10. Stevens Creek Reservoir
11. Uvas Reservoir
12. Vasona Reservoir

Source: Thomas Reid Associates.

As the project is the lease renewal, the subject of environmental assessment is the conditions that would result from the action of renewing the lease. Renewing the lease would allow the continuation of current level of recreation for 15 years. The current level of recreation can be defined as existing recreational activities relying on existing park facilities at the various reservoir sites. The initial study does not address future park improvements that may be in the planning stage.

The SCCPRD has begun the planning process to make improvements at several of the reservoir parks included in this lease agreement. These improvements have been described in a series of Park Master Plans prepared by the SCCPRD which identify park goals and recommend facility improvements to meet these goals. Some of the Park Master Plans are completed and are in the CEQA review stage while other Master Plans are still being drafted. At the present, the Park Master Planning Process is on hold pending the completion of a Comprehensive Reservoir Watershed Management Plan by the SCVWD. All proposed park improvements and recreational activities must be in compliance with this future District-wide plan so the park master planning process will resume once the Comprehensive Reservoir Watershed Management Plan is adopted. Individual Park Master Plans will be subject to future CEQA review with the County acting as lead agency.

The proposed lease agreement does generally address the future park improvements by incorporating stipulations that the park master planning process be integrated with "the DISTRICT's development of a Comprehensive Watershed Management Policy and Program" (SCVWD Draft Master Reservoir Lease, September 1993). The SCVWD will consider the facility improvements in the Park Master Plans when developing the Comprehensive Reservoir Watershed Management Plan. Until the Comprehensive Reservoir Watershed Management Plan is developed, the "COUNTY will limit improvements so as not to place additional facilities within the watershed areas... which would substantially increase the intensity of recreational use beyond the current levels" (SCVWD Draft Master Reservoir Lease, September 1993). The proposed lease agreement includes the statement that:

> "the COUNTY withhold finalization of the Calero, Anderson, Stevens Creek and Coyote Master Plans until such time as their consistency with the Comprehensive Watershed Management Policy and Program can be determined. "

This language clarifies the scope of the project that is the subject of this Initial Study--the SCVWD/SCCPRD lease agreement. The lease agreement does not implement any of the proposed improvements described in the various Master Plans but would allow for the current level of recreation to continue at the lease areas.

Organization of the Initial Study. The Initial Study presents information which is considered by the Santa Clara Valley Water District Board in determining whether a Negative Declaration or Environmental Impact Report needs to be prepared. The Initial Study is presented in six sections.

1. **Introduction.** This introduction describes the purpose and content of the Initial Study.

2. **Project Description.** The twelve District facilities subject to the lease are described in this section. The facilities are presented in alphabetical order and are numbered from 1 to 12. Each facility is introduced by a summary sheet and a standard series of maps showing (A) location, (B) District property, (C) aerial photograph, (D) topography, and (E) existing Park use (not applicable to all facilities).

3. **Initial Study Checklist.** The Initial Study Checklist is a standard form used to examine the full range of potential environmental effects. The form is based on the checklist used by the District, adapted to follow a proposed new CEQA checklist that responds to CEQA amendments which became effective in January 1994.

4. **Response to Initial Study Checklist.** This section expands upon the answers given in the Initial Study Checklist. Each area of environmental concern is identified by a letter which corresponds to the same section of the checklist. The text of the question from the checklist is repeated. All facilities are addressed cumulatively and individually where appropriate under each environmental issue. For clarity, the facilities are always addressed in the same alphabetical order as presented in Section 2, Project Description.

5. **Mitigating Measures.** Several potentially significant impacts were identified that could be mitigated to insignificance. This section summarizes the necessary measures.

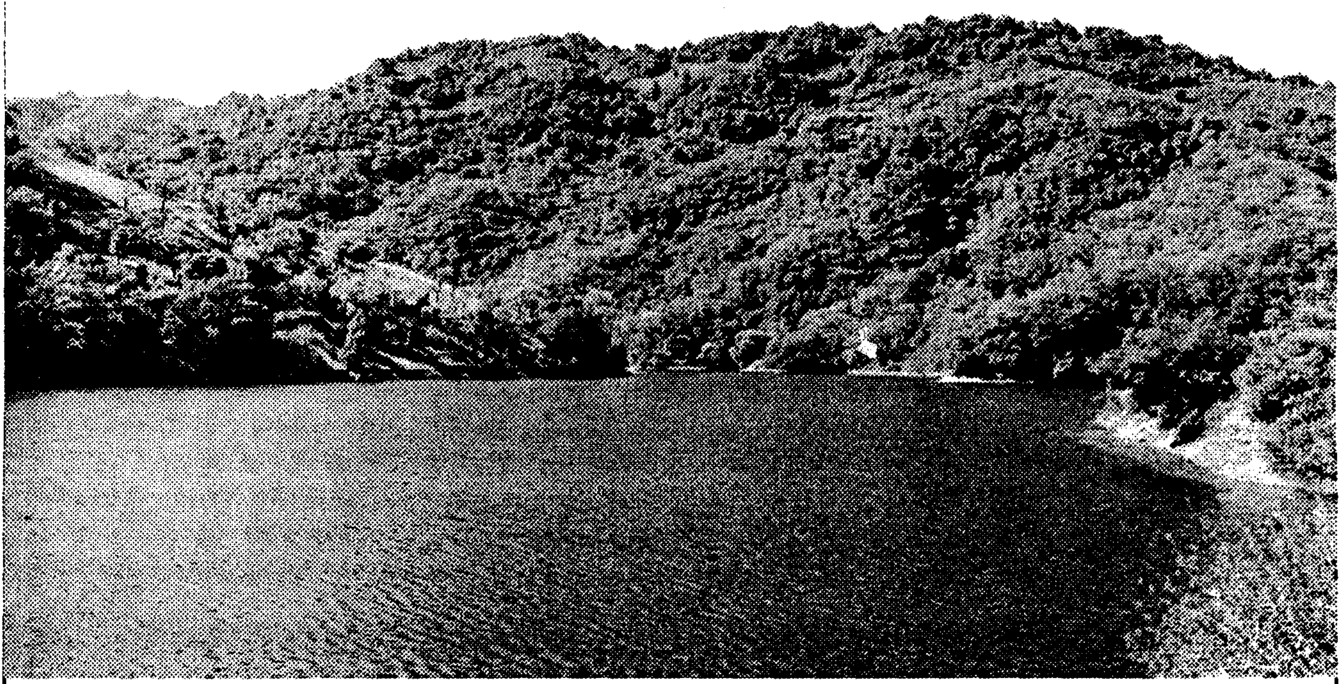
6. **References.** This section lists documents and persons consulted and identifies the consultant and District staff which prepared the Initial Study.

SCVWD/SCCPRD
LEASE RENEWAL AGREEMENT

FINAL MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION AND INITIAL STUDY

SECTION 2.0
PROJECT DESCRIPTION

2.1. ALMADEN RESERVOIR



Almaden Reservoir

View west from Almaden Dam

Capacity: 1,780 acre feet
Average Surface Area: 59 acres
Completed: 1935
Dam Height: 105 feet high, 250,000 cubic yards of material.
Lease History: 1969 lease agreement.
Lease Area: 112 acres
Park Area: 112 acres.
Recreational Uses: Fishing, picnicking.

2.1. ALMADEN RESERVOIR

Location and General Description. Almaden Reservoir is located on Alamitos Road south of the City of San Jose in west-central Santa Clara County. The 112-acre lease area, including the 59-acre reservoir, is within Almaden Canyon south of the historic community of New Almaden (see Figure 2.1.A). The lease area as recorded by the SCVWD is shown in Figure 2.1.B. The lease area and vicinity land use and vegetation are shown on the aerial photo in Figure 2.1.C. Figure 2.1.D. shows the lease area in relation to vicinity topography.

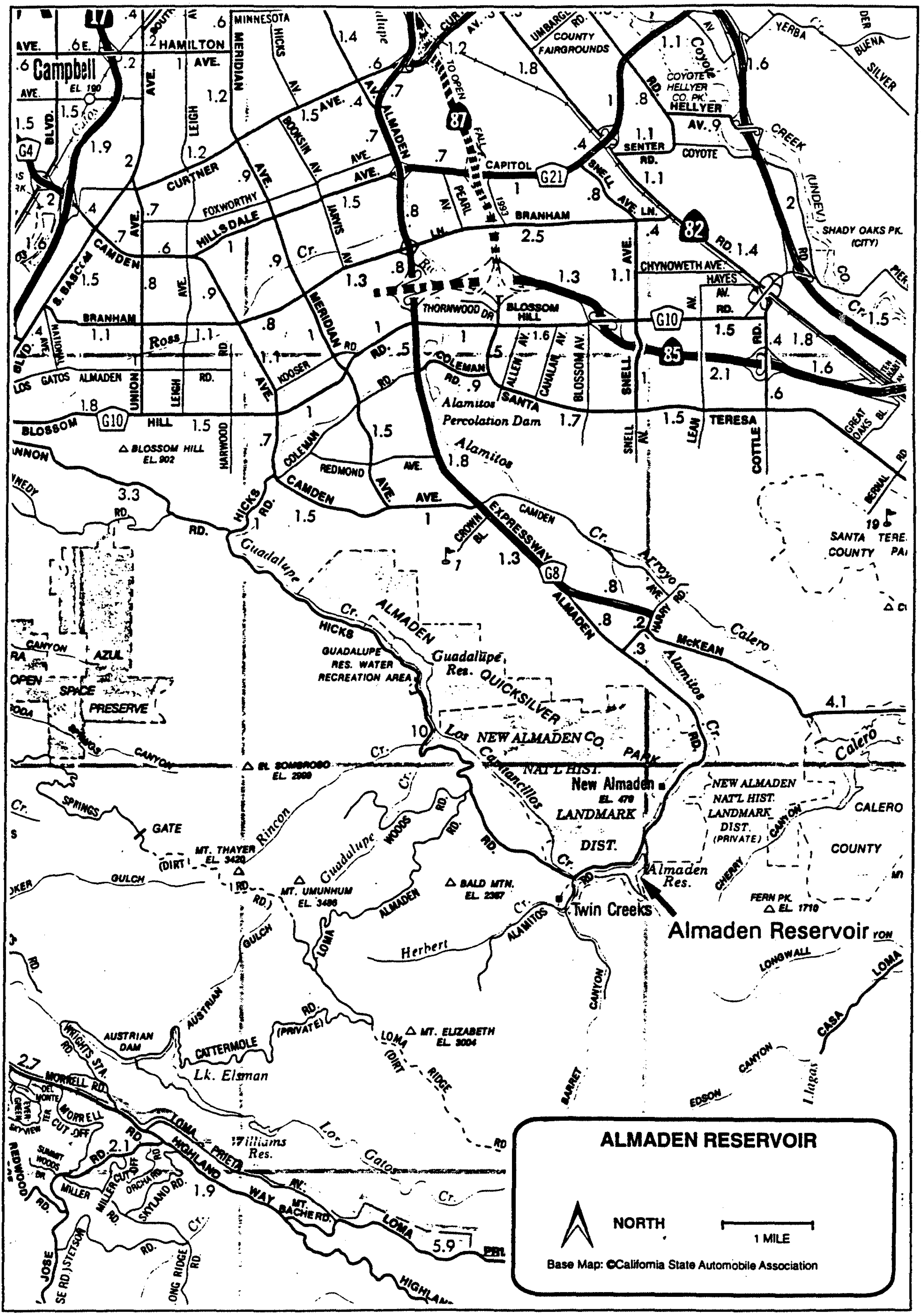
SCVWD Lease Area and Use. The SCVWD leased Almaden Reservoir to the SCCPRD in 1969 to provide public recreation. The SCVWD lease area boundary is the same as the SCCPRD park area. Both Almaden Reservoir Park and Guadalupe Reservoir Park are operationally managed by the SCCPRD as part of Almaden Quicksilver County Park (H. Giretti, SCCPRD). The southeastern end of Almaden Quicksilver County Park is opposite Almaden Reservoir on the north side of Alamitos Road. The 112-acre Almaden Reservoir lease area also includes a strip of land on the north side of Alamitos Road (see Figure 2.1.C). These lands, though bordering Almaden Quicksilver County Park, are within the operational boundary of Almaden Reservoir.

The Reservoir collects runoff from the surrounding watershed which includes Herbert and Barret Creeks flowing into the southwest end of the reservoir near the small community of Twin Creeks. The Reservoir releases water to Alamitos Creek for groundwater recharge. During the rainy season, storms or long wet periods, often produce more runoff than the Reservoir can contain. Excess runoff is directed to Calero Reservoir via the Almaden Calero Canal. The SCVWD operates this reservoir for water conservation purposes only. However, due to the presence of this reservoir in the watershed, there may be some incidental flood control benefits.

Almaden Reservoir and Calero Reservoir are two of four reservoirs that the District could use to provide drinking water to supplement normal supplies in case of a water quality or water quantity emergency (EOA, Inc. 1992). During an emergency, Almaden Reservoir water would flow through the Almaden Calero Canal, mix with Calero Reservoir water, and be piped out to the drinking water treatment plants.

Geography. The Reservoir extends roughly west-to-east in Almaden Canyon at the foot of the east-facing slopes of Sierra Azul, a principal northwest/southeast trending ridge of the Santa Cruz Mountains (see Figure 2.1.C). At the eastern end of the Reservoir, slopes on the north side of Alamitos Road are steep, exposing highly sheared rockfaces where cuts were made for the dam and Alamitos Road construction. This northern slope is within Almaden Quicksilver County Park and rises to 1,609 feet in elevation near Mexican Camp (see Figure 2.1.D). The slopes south of the Reservoir are bisected by Larabee Gulch which forms a slough approximately 1,200 feet long on the southern shore (see Figure 2.1.C).

FIGURE 2.1.A -- ALMADEN RESERVOIR VICINITY



Base Map: ©California State Automobile Association

FIGURE 2.1.B -- ALMADEN RESERVOIR LEASE AREA

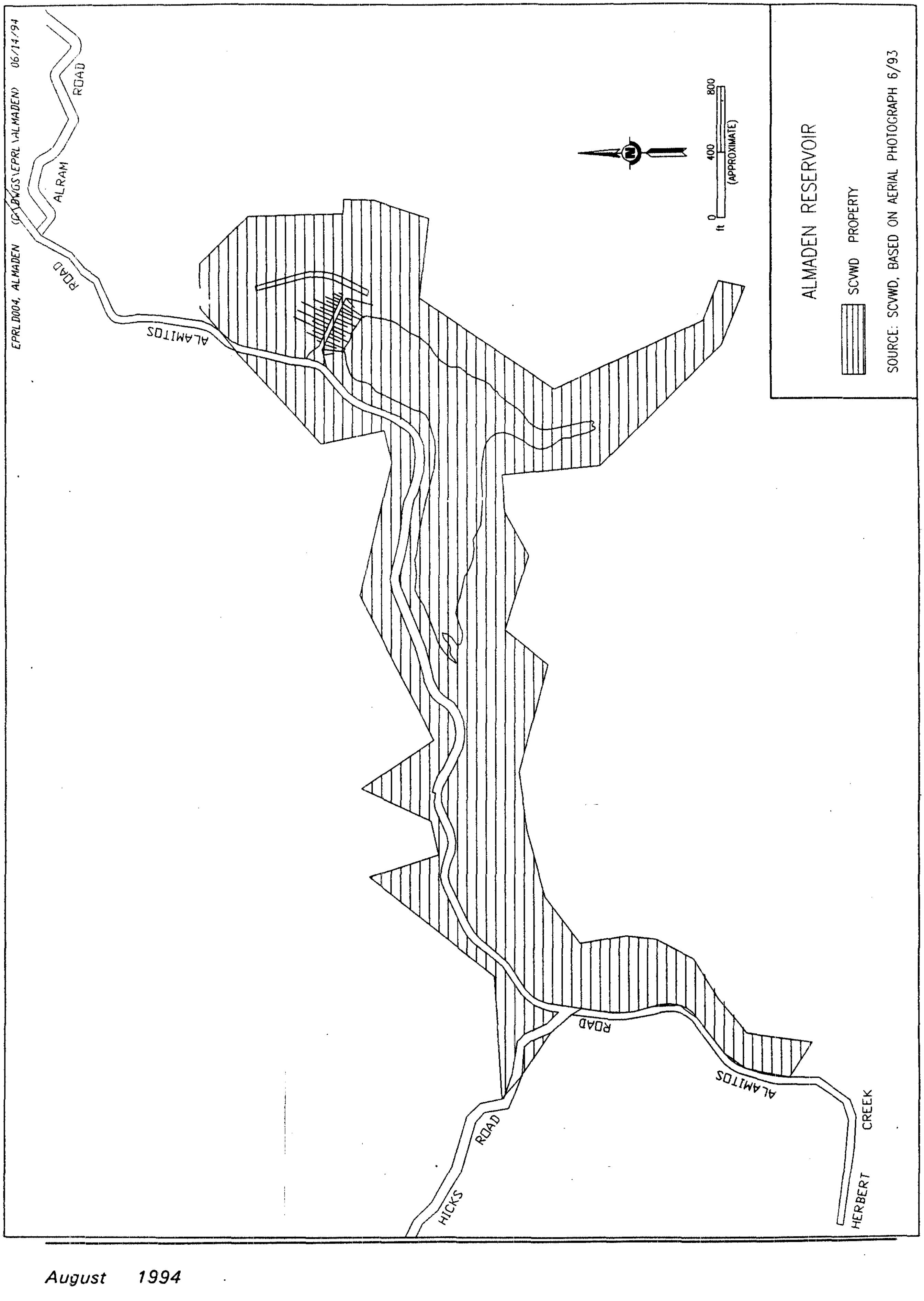
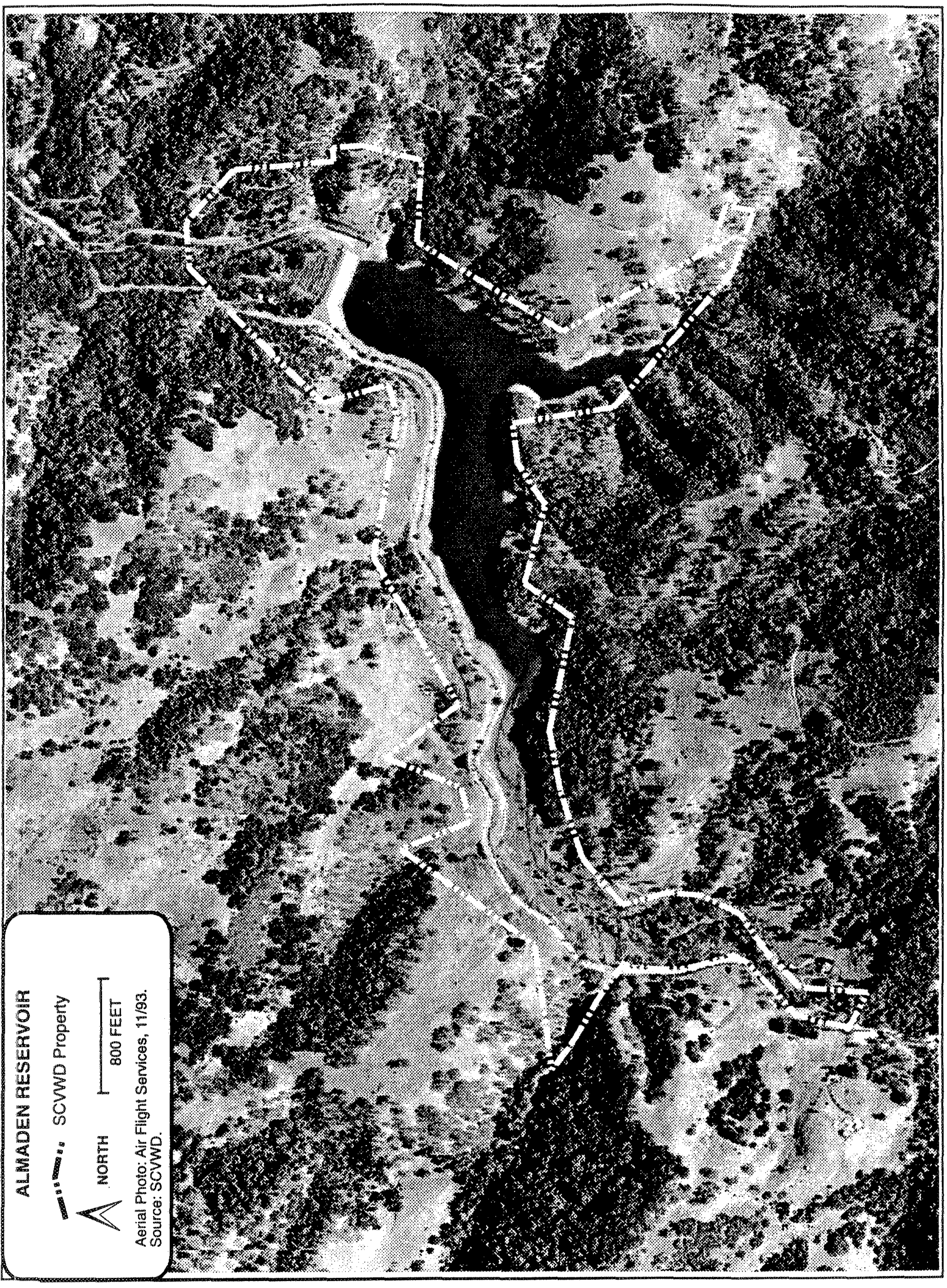


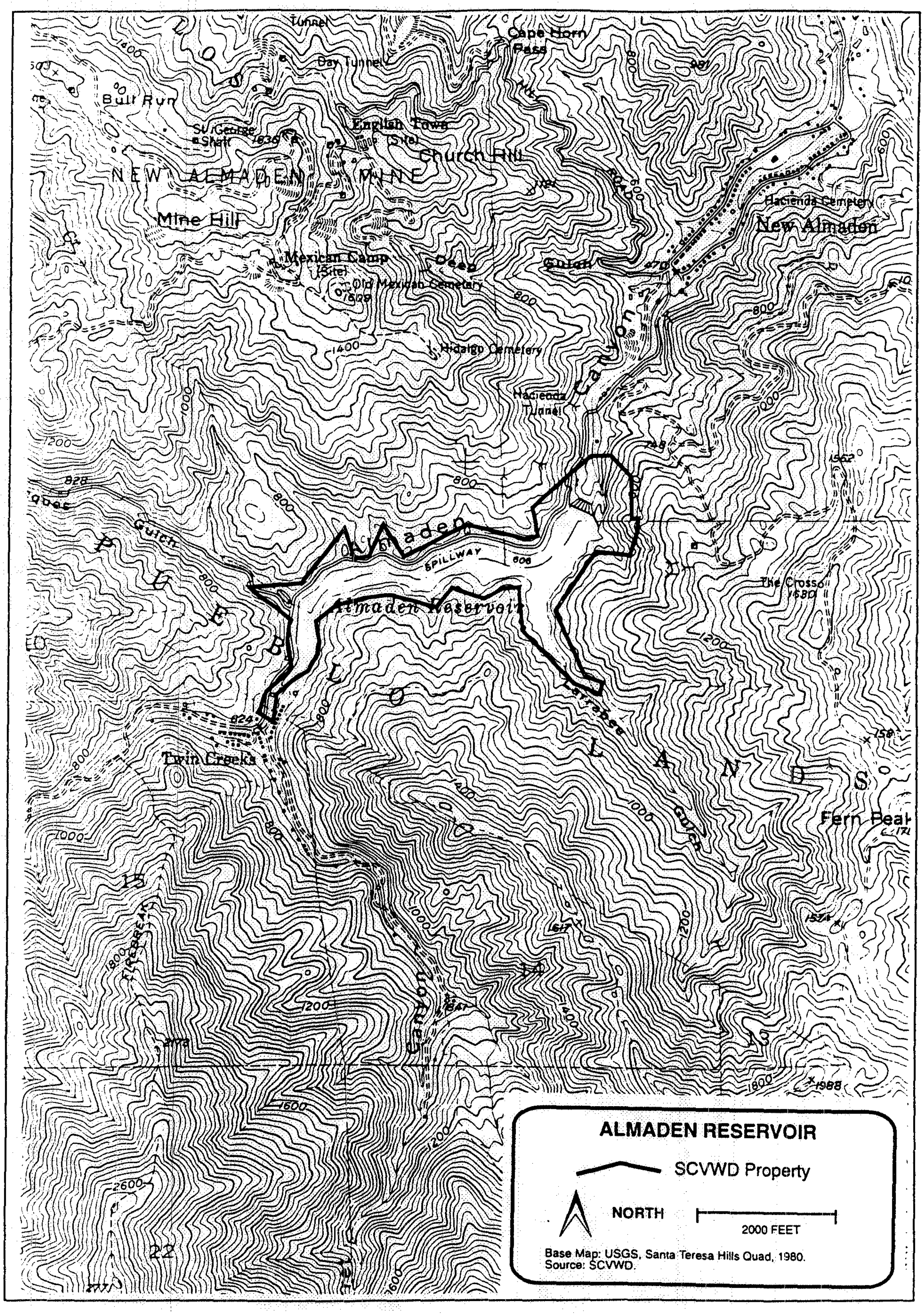
FIGURE 2.1.C -- ALMADEN RESERVOIR AERIAL PHOTOGRAPH

EPRL-AL.FH3, 06/08/94, Almaden



Aerial Photo: Air Flight Services, 11/93.
Source: SCVWD.

FIGURE 2.1.D -- ALMADEN RESERVOIR TOPOGRAPHY



Base Map: USGS, Santa Teresa Hills Quad, 1980.
Source: SCVWD.

Access. Access to Almaden Reservoir is by the two-lane Almaden Road to Alamitos Road from the northeast and Hicks Road via Camden Road from the northwest (see Figure 2.1.A). The upper lease area is reached by continuing south on Alamitos Road beyond the Hicks Road intersection.

Vegetation. The slopes north of Alamitos Road and the Reservoir are in Almaden Quicksilver Park and are mainly grassland with some oak woodland. The southern slopes are oak woodland (see Figure 2.1.C).

Land Use. Lands to the north of the Reservoir are within Almaden Quicksilver County Park and used for public recreation and open space. Lands west, south and east of the Reservoir are designated as Hillside on the Santa Clara County General Plan Land Use Map.

The Hillside designated lands west of the Reservoir include the community of Twin Creeks -- approximately 60 homes located along both Barret and Herbert Creeks (EOA Inc. 1989). Structures in Twin Creeks date from the early 1900's and predate General Plan designations. The ridge south of the Reservoir is also designated as Hillside and now contains fewer than 5 homes served by private roads.

History. Almaden Quicksilver County Park includes a region that once contained some of the most productive cinnabar (mercuric sulfide) mines in the world. Portions of Almaden Quicksilver County Park are currently closed to public access due to the presence of mercury compounds in mining wastes and park soils. Studies have found that fish caught at Almaden Reservoir have had levels of methyl mercury that exceed US Food and Drug Administration thresholds (Camp Dresser & McKee Inc. 1992; EOA, Inc. 1989).

Park Use. Though fishing is allowed at Almaden Reservoir, because of the potential public health hazard, the SCVWD has posted signs warning against consumption of Almaden Reservoir fish. No swimming, boating or any form of water contact recreation besides fishing is allowed at Almaden Reservoir. The majority of the lease area is the Reservoir itself, the adjoining lands up to 15 feet in elevation above the high water mark of the Reservoir, and the area below the dam and spillway.

The SCCPRD has not actively encouraged public recreation at Almaden Reservoir due to the issue of contamination of sediments and fish. Almaden Reservoir is open for day use only. There is no entrance station to the Reservoir, no fees are collected and no records of daily visitation are kept. There are no restroom facilities and no paved parking areas.

Visitors access to the Reservoir by parking in turnouts along Hicks Road or Alamitos Road. These areas cannot be secured at night. Patrol of Almaden Reservoir is by a ranger assigned to Calero Reservoir. The reservoir is usually patrolled once per day during the winter and up to three times per day during spring and summer months (H. Giretti, SCCPRD). There are no signs indicating boating is not allowed. The SCVWD has posted fish contamination warning signs in two locations: at the intersection of Alamitos Road and Hicks Road and at the dam. SCCPRD has posted "no swimming" signs at some of the more obvious parking turnouts.

2.2. ANDERSON RESERVOIR

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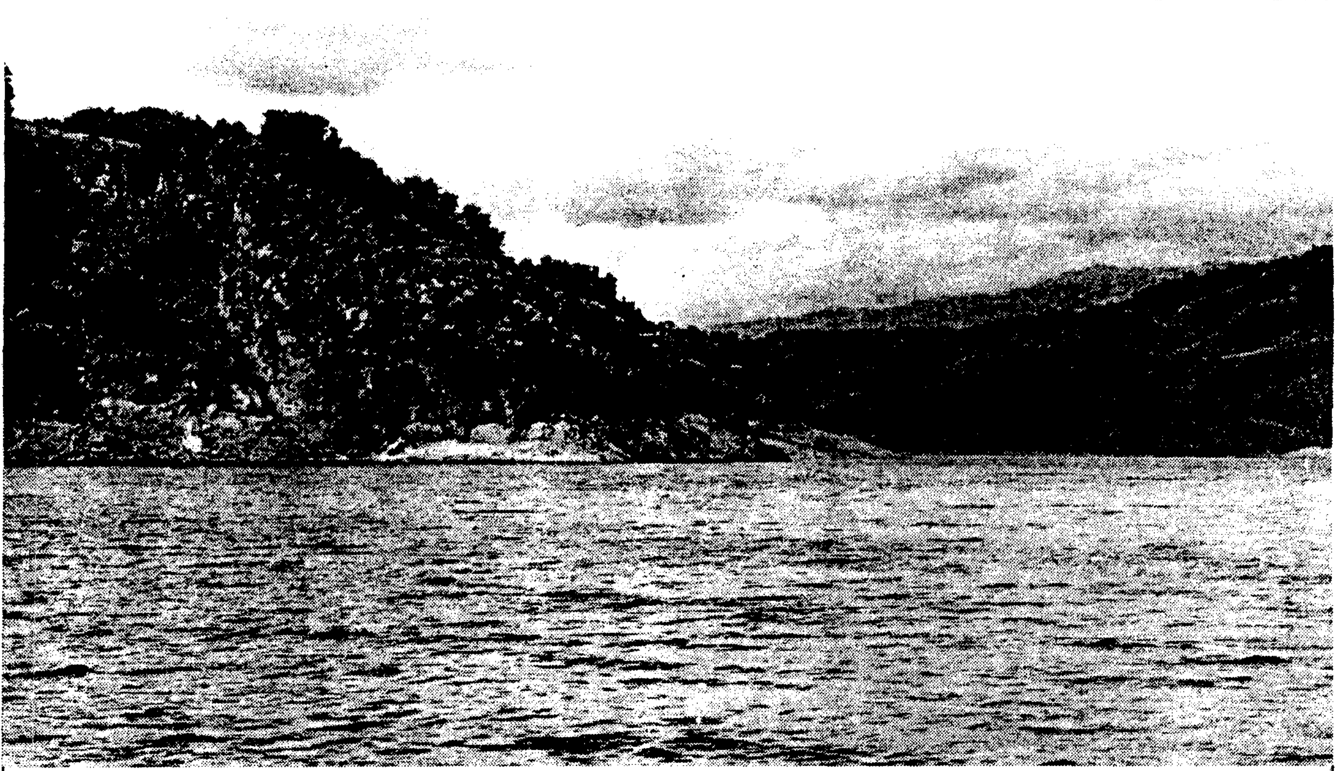


Anderson Reservoir

View west from Leroy Anderson Dam
Anderson Lake County Park

Capacity: 89,073 acre feet
Average Surface Area: 1,245 acres
Completed: 1950
Dam Height: 240 feet high, 3,320,000 cubic yards of material.
Lease History: 1969 lease agreement.
Lease Area: 1,662 acres
Park Area: 2,038 acres.
Recreational Uses: Fishing, motorized and non-motorized boating, water skiing, jet skiing, wind surfing, picnicking, hiking, horseback riding, bicycling.

2.2. ANDERSON RESERVOIR

Location and General Description. Anderson Reservoir is located within Anderson Lake County Park in the southern portion of Santa Clara County approximately 2 miles northeast of the City of Morgan Hill (see Figure 2.2.A). The lease area as recorded by the SCVWD is shown in Figure 2.2.B. The lease area and vicinity land use and vegetation are shown on the aerial photo in Figure 2.2.C. Figure 2.2.D. shows the lease area in relation to vicinity topography. Figure 2.2.E shows the park facilities and layout.

The Reservoir impounds water from several creeks: Otis Creek joins Coyote Creek at the southern end; Packwood Creek drains into the Reservoir roughly midway and San Felipe, Las Animas and Shingle Valley Creeks flows into the northern end (see Figure 2.2.D) The Reservoir is approximately seven miles long and 0.5 miles at maximum width.

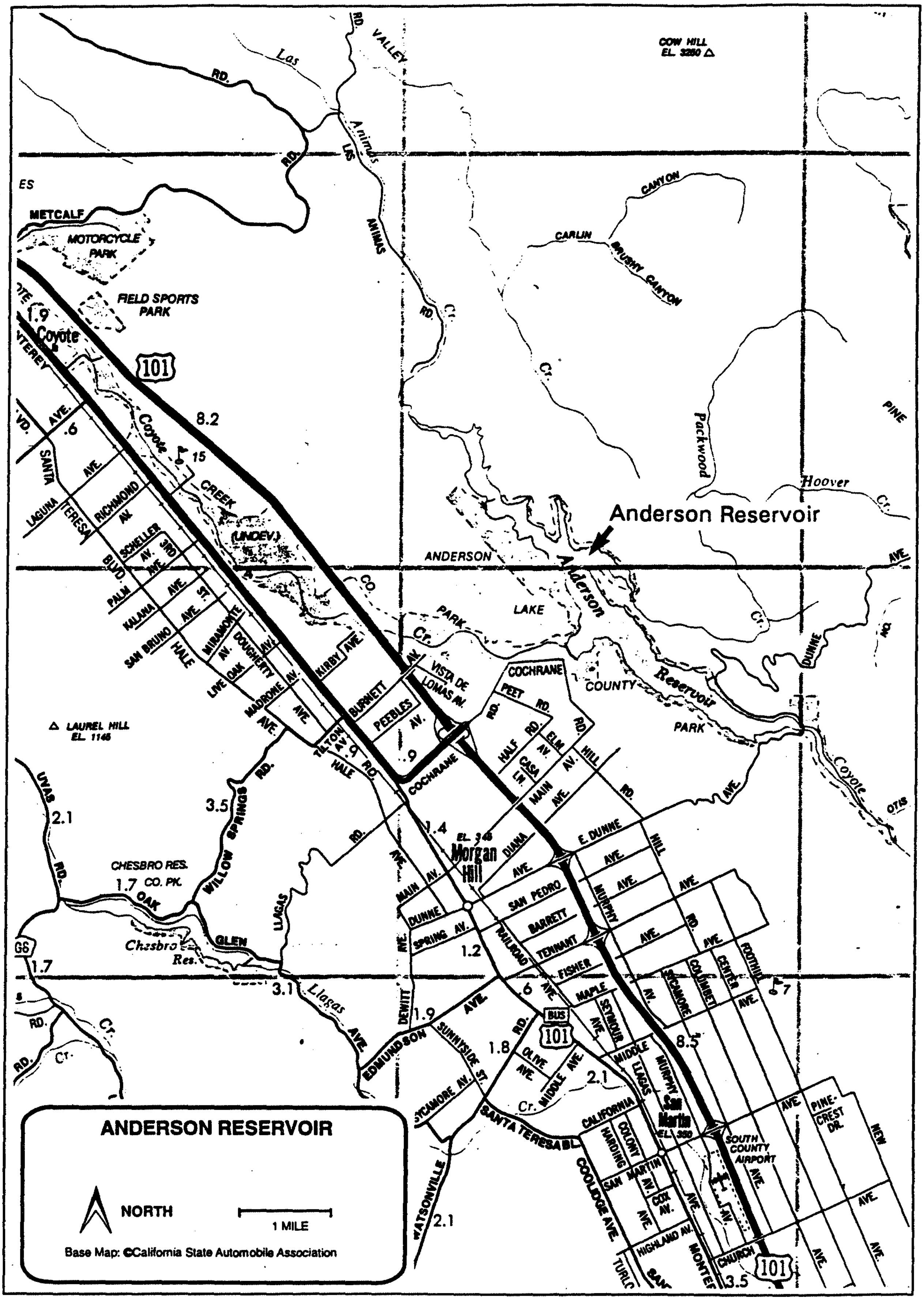
SCVWD Lease and Use. The area leased by the SCVWD to the SCCPRD includes nearly all of Anderson Lake County Park with the exception of the "Boat-in Picnic Area" on the northwest shore of the Reservoir (see Figures 2.2.B and 2.2.E). The lease area includes:

- the reservoir;
- lands within 15-foot of the reservoir high water level including slough and drainages;
- the dam and spillway; and
- the lower picnic areas along Coyote Creek and west-facing slope above the picnic area.

The principal purpose of Anderson Reservoir is to impound the flows of several creeks and the stormwater runoff from the surrounding watershed for controlled release during the drier months of the year to aid in aquifer recharge. Coyote Reservoir and Anderson Reservoir are a reservoir series impounding the same principal water source, Coyote Creek. Coyote Reservoir releases water downstream via Coyote Creek to Anderson Reservoir. Anderson Reservoir then releases water back to Coyote Creek and into the Santa Clara Valley portion of Coyote Creek where it recharges the Santa Clara groundwater subbasin through a series of percolation ponds which have been constructed along the north-flowing path of Coyote Creek to San Francisco Bay. Anderson Reservoir also maintains sufficient capacity to provide emergency storage in the event of failure of the Coyote Reservoir dam.

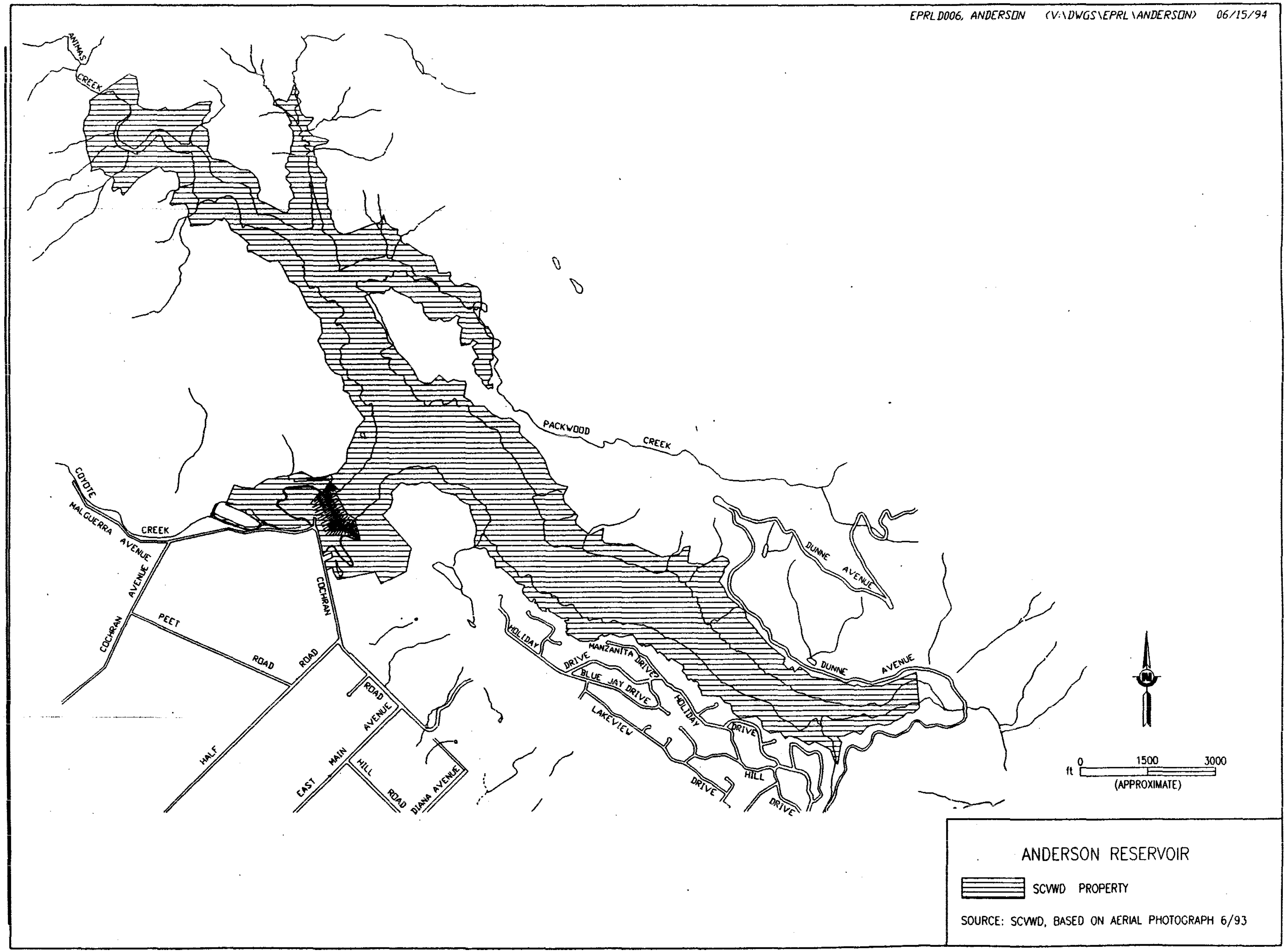
Anderson Reservoir is also one of four reservoirs that would provide drinking water to supplement normal supplies in case of a water quality or water quantity

FIGURE 2.2.A -- ANDERSON RESERVOIR VICINITY



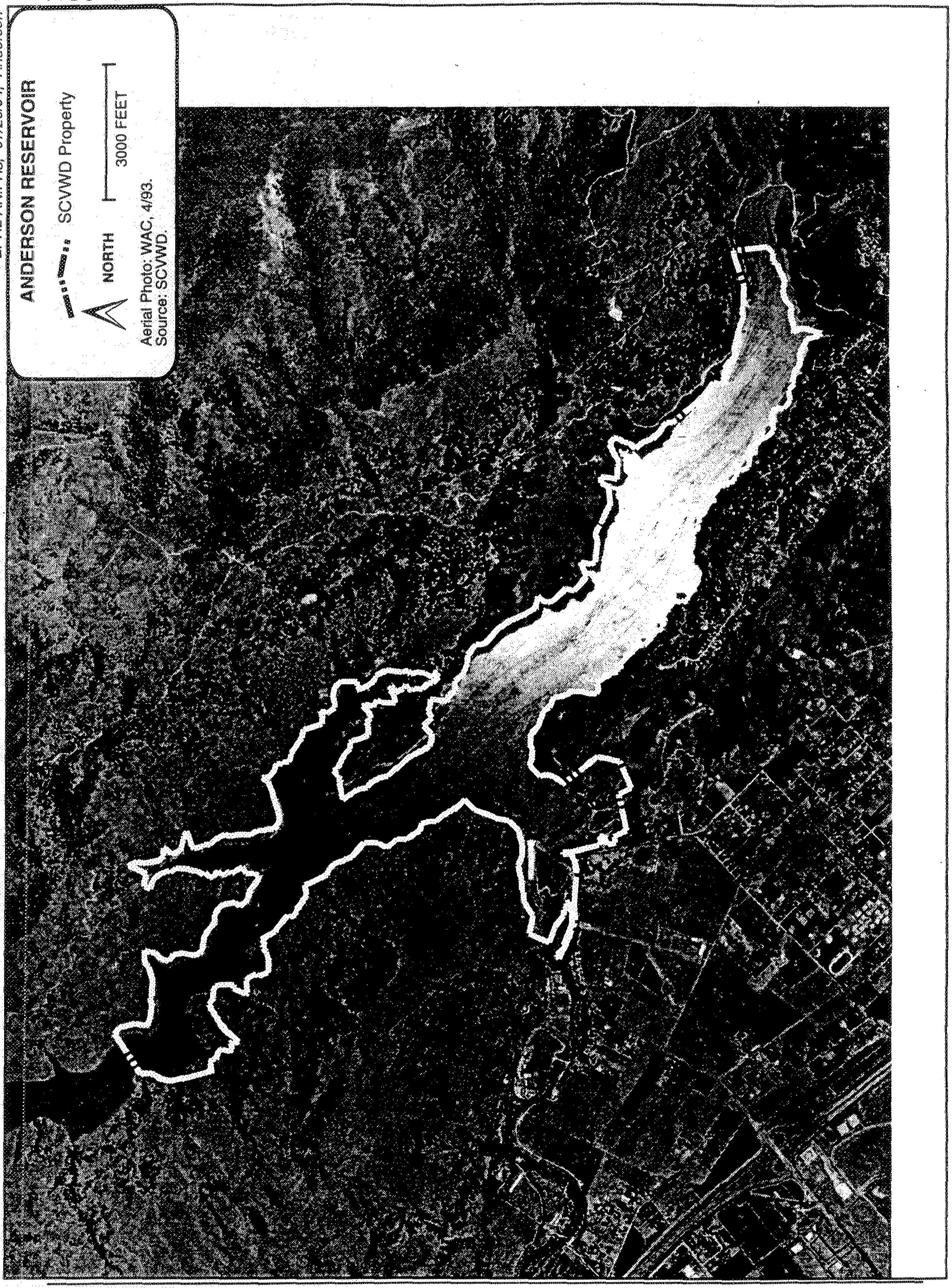
Base Map: ©California State Automobile Association

FIGURE 2.2.B -- ANDERSON RESERVOIR LEASE AREA



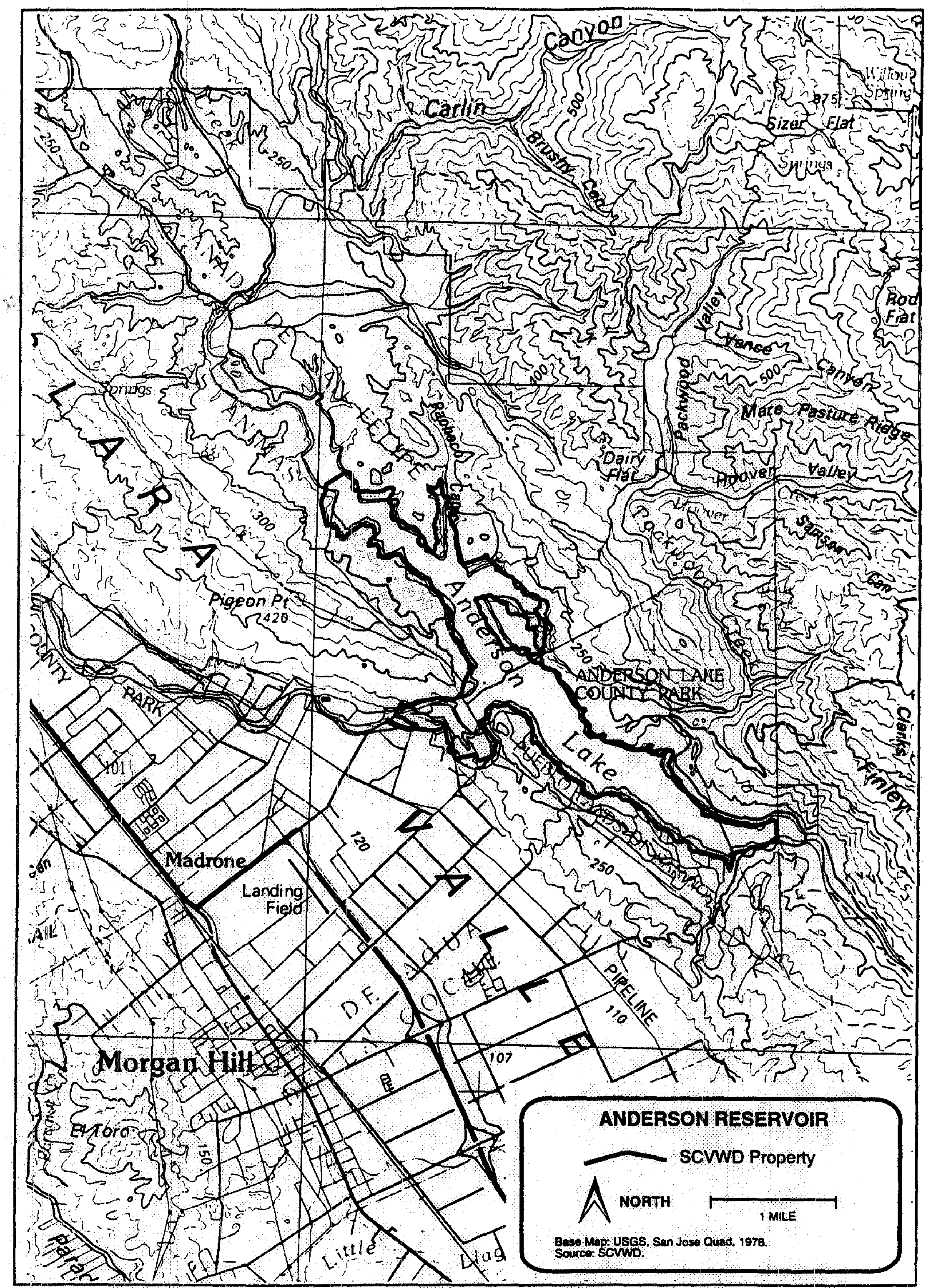
SOURCE: SCVWD, BASED ON AERIAL PHOTOGRAPH 6/93

FIGURE 2.2.C -- ANDERSON RESERVOIR AERIAL PHOTOGRAPH



EPRL-AN.FH3, 07/20/94, Anderson

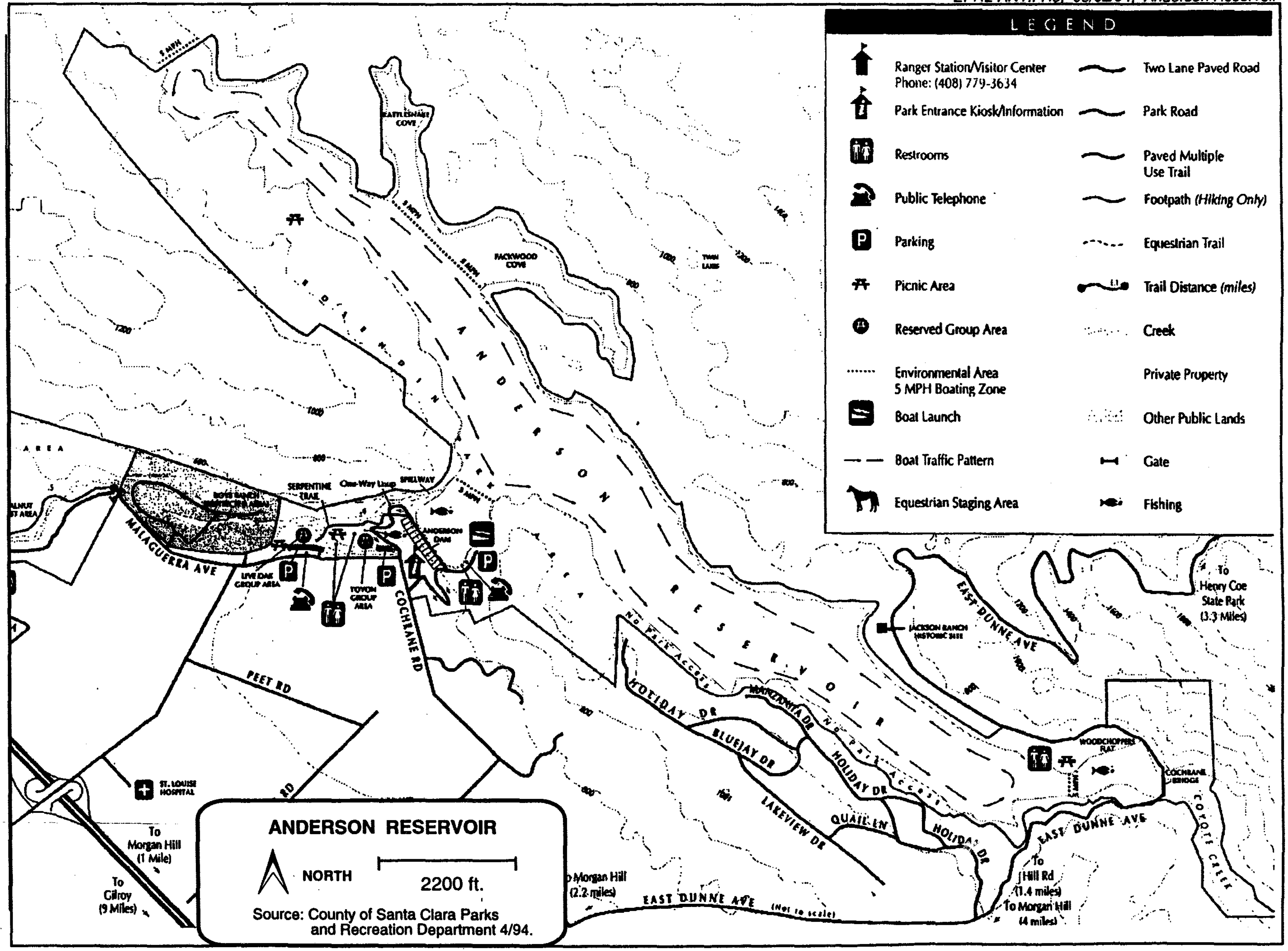
FIGURE 2.2.D -- ANDERSON RESERVOIR TOPOGRAPHY



Base Map: USGS, San Jose Quad, 1978.
Source: SCVWD.

FIGURE 2.2.E -- ANDERSON LAKE COUNTY PARK FACILITIES

EPRL-AN1.FH3, 08/02/94, Anderson Reservoir



Source: County of Santa Clara Parks and Recreation Department 4/94.

emergency (EOA, Inc. 1992). Coyote Reservoir which releases water to Anderson Reservoir also fills this function.

Geography. The northwest/southeast trending valley flooded by Anderson Reservoir was the juncture where the northern creeks joined Coyote Creek before a descent from the western foothills of the Mt. Hamilton Range foothills to the Santa Clara Valley. Coyote Creek then continues northwesterly to San Francisco Bay.

Access. Anderson Lake County Park is accessed from Highway 101 in Morgan Hill by taking the Cochrane Road exit eastbound. Cochrane Road intersects the Park entrance road approximately 2.5 miles east of Highway 101. The entrance road leads to either the picnic areas below the dam or climbs up to the dam crest and adjacent boat launch area and parking lot. The Woodchoppers Flat picnic area is accessed from Highway 101 by taking East Dunne Avenue which crosses the Reservoir via the Cochrane Bridge and continues north along the southeastern shoreline.

Vegetation. Slopes above the dam area are steep and bare where cut for dam construction. The steep west and south-facing slopes on the north side of the dam (above the lower picnic areas) are composed of a serpentinite bedrock unit which supports a serpentine chaparral community. Serpentine bedrock and the associated chaparral community are also found on the eastern side of the Cochrane Bridge. Slopes above Rattlesnake and Packwood Coves on the northeastern shore of the Reservoir are moderately sloped and support grassland, sage scrub and mixed oak woodland communities. Woodchoppers Flat is a gradually sloped area of oak woodland and non-native grassland. The ridge above the Boat-in Area on the western shore is moderately-sloped and supports oak woodland and grassland communities with a limited area of serpentine digger pine on the east-facing slope north of the dam (AGS Inc. 1992; The Habitat Restoration Group 1992).

Land Use. Land Use adjacent to Anderson Reservoir includes both agriculture and residential areas. The Holiday Lakes residential community is on the western shore of the southern portion of the Reservoir. The western-most section of this community, Holiday Lakes II and Jackson Oaks, are within the City of Morgan Hill; the older neighborhood dating from the 1950's, Holiday Lakes I, closest to the Reservoir, is in unincorporated Santa Clara County. Approximately 110 homes were shown for the entire area on the most recent USGS quadrangle map (EOA, Inc. 1989). A County boat ramp in Holiday Lakes area is gated and no longer available for use.

Slopes on the eastern side of Anderson Reservoir are used for cattle grazing. Below the dam, adjacent to the group picnic areas, land use is primarily rural residential and agricultural.

Park Use. Anderson Reservoir is available for day use recreation from one half-hour before sunrise to dusk. Recreational uses allowed at Anderson Lake County Park include individual and group picnicking, horseback riding, hiking, motorized boating, non-motorized boating, windsurfing, water skiing, jet skiing and fishing. In areas of the Reservoir with shallower water and more sensitive habitat areas, such as the northern and southern ends of the Reservoir and Rattlesnake and Packwood Coves, boat speeds are limited to below 5 miles per hour. The 5-mile per hour speed limit is also designated for the inlet where the dam and boat launch are located. Boats are allowed on the Reservoir from 8:00 am to one half-hour before sunset. The boat launch, picnic area and Woodchoppers Flat are gated and locked after sunset. Night fishing is common in the Woodchoppers Flat area and users park along Dunne Road for legal access.

No swimming or wading is allowed at the Reservoir due its status as a source of emergency drinking water for the SCVWD (EOA, Inc. 1992). Water-related activities, such as water skiing and windsurfing, are considered "limited body contact recreation" and are permitted at Anderson Reservoir under the terms of the SCVWD operating permit granted by the California Department of Health Services. In the event that the SCVWD required Anderson Reservoir water to supplement normal water supplies, and if full treatment of the combined water sources could not be provided, the limited body contact water recreation at Anderson Reservoir would be suspended.

Anderson Lake County Park is a popular County Park. A total of 19,195 vehicles and 77,542 visitors entered the Park during the first six months of fiscal year 1993/1994 (July 1-December 31). Park staff also estimated the number of users for each of the following activities for the period of July 1 to December 31, 1993:

picnicking	46,087
power boats	9,360
fishing	7,875
hiking	6,111
horseback riding	995
bicycling	16,334
driving over dam only	14,613

No figures are available for water skiing, jet skiing, windsurfing or non-motorized boating such as sailboats.

Public land-based recreation is concentrated in four primary areas within the lease area with separate access points.

Lower Picnic Areas. West and downstream from Anderson dam along Coyote Creek are a series of day use picnic areas (see Figure 2.2.E). The lower area includes two picnic areas--the Live Oak Area and the Toyon Area. Both areas allow group and individual picnic use. Group use is by reservation. Approximately 60 parking spaces are provided near the Park entrance for the Toyon Picnic Area which is on the east side of Coyote Creek. The Toyon Picnic Area has approximately 15 tables and grills, a group picnic area, a restroom, telephone, electrical service and potable water. An 87-space parking area accessed from Cochrane Road provides parking for the Live Oak Picnic Area. The Live Oak Area is on both banks of Coyote Creek; the eastern bank can be reached by a footbridge. There are 42 tables and 23 grills, a group picnic area, a telephone, potable water, restroom and electricity in the Live Oak Area.

A hiking trail connects the lower area to the Burnett property, a separate, undeveloped, County Park parcel on Coyote Creek downstream from Anderson Lake. The multi-use Coyote Creek Trail ends at the Burnett property but an unofficial, unpaved trail can be used by hikers, bicyclists and horseback riders to reach Anderson Lake County Park.

Boat Launch Area. The boat launch area is on the shore south of the Leroy Anderson dam (see Figure 2.2.E). The boat launch area is accessed by a one-way looped park road which intersects Cochrane Road and then switchbacks up the ridge on the southern side of the dam. A parking area at the top of the dam provides spaces for approximately 100 vehicles and 125 boat trailers. The parking area is in the bowl of a former quarry used for initial dam construction and also for recent improvements made to the spillway.

During the summer, the Anderson Reservoir park road and parking area can become congested with visitors waiting to launch boats at the adjacent boat ramp. Usually, park staff allow launching on a first-come basis during weekdays and non-holidays. For weekends and holidays, April 1 through September 30, boaters call ahead to make a reservation for a specific time. This avoids congestion.

A $3.00 per vehicle day use fee is collected at Anderson Dam daily from one week before Memorial Day to one week after Labor Day and on weekends and holidays during the remainder of the year. Lake use fees are collected daily throughout the year. During the spring and summer, the weekend fee for launching a boat is typically $12.00. This total is comprised of a $3.00 per vehicle charge, a $5.00 per boat or jet ski launch fee and a $4.00 per advance reservation fee. The advance reservation fee is collected at the time of launch.

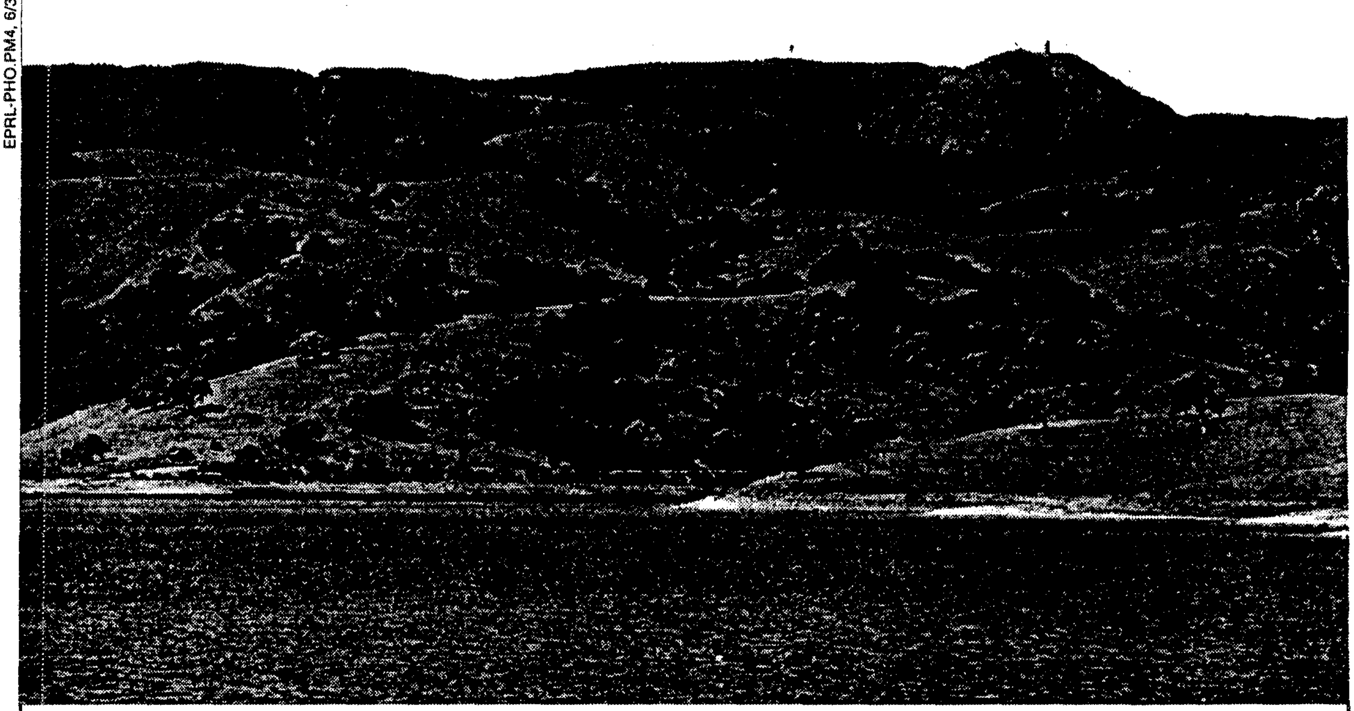
Boats are launched from a paved ramp and a wooden dock is provided for temporary berthing. Chemical toilets, a telephone and a bulletin board with park information are located in the parking area. The park road continues across the top of the dam and descends on the ridge on the northern side of the dam.

Woodchoppers Flat. Woodchoppers Flat is a small day use area with 12 picnic tables and barbecue grills on the southeastern shore of the Reservoir. Parking is provided for approximately 35 vehicles in an unpaved parking lot which is gated to restrict after hours access. Chemical toilets are provided in the parking area. Boats are not allowed to be launched from Woodchoppers Flat day use area. The area is signed for no swimming.

Boat-in Area. The northwestern shore is accessible only by boat. Leased lands in this area extend only 15 feet beyond the high water mark. SCCPRD owns additional property adjacent to the lease lands that extend the Park boundaries to the ridgetop. Picnic tables are provided at the Boat-in Area.

2.3. CALERO RESERVOIR

EPRL-PHO.PM4, 6/3/94, P10



Calero Reservoir
View of South Shore and Mt. Umunhum from
Boat Launch Area, Calero County Park and Reservoir

Capacity: 10,050 acre feet
Average Surface Area: 752 acres
Completed: 1935
Dam Height: 98 feet high, 550,000 cubic yards of material.
Lease History: 1969 lease agreement.
Lease Area: 493 acres.
Park Area: 2,282 acres.
Recreational Uses: Fishing, picnicking, motorized and non-motorized boating, water skiing, windsurfing, jet skiing, hiking and equestrian trails, horse rentals.

2.3. CALERO RESERVOIR

Location and General Description. Calero Reservoir is located in the central area of southern Santa Clara County just south of the Santa Teresa Hills section of San Jose and east of the community of New Almaden and Almaden Reservoir (see Figure 2.3.A, Calero Reservoir Vicinity). The lease area as recorded by the SCVWD is shown in Figure 2.3.B. The lease area and vicinity land use and vegetation are shown on the aerial photo in Figure 2.3.C. Figure 2.3.D. shows the lease area in relation to vicinity topography. Figure 2.3.E shows the park facilities and layout.

Calero Reservoir dam impounds Calero Creek on the west end of the Reservoir flooding a section of the broad Calero Creek Valley of the eastern foothills of the Santa Cruz Mountains (see Figure 2.3.D). A smaller saddle dam was constructed along McKean Road north of the main dam. The U-shaped Calero Reservoir is approximately 5.5 miles long and 2 miles wide at the western end, its widest point. Minimum recreational capacity for the dam has been set at 4,000 acre-feet with a total capacity of more than 10,000 acre feet.

SCVWD Lease and Use. The Calero Reservoir lease area comprises one third of the total SCCPRD Park area. On the southern shore of the Reservoir the lease area extends to land 15 feet in elevation above the reservoir high water level, on the eastern area near the stables, the lease lands are more extensive, and on the north of the Reservoir, lease lands continue to McKean Road. The SCVWD water delivery facilities north of McKean Road on either side of the Bailey Road intersection are also included within the lease area.

The primary District purpose for Calero Reservoir is controlled release of surface runoff for downstream groundwater recharge. Recharge waters are released either directly to Calero Creek or to the Almaden Valley Pipeline which delivers raw water to the Vasona Pumping Station, approximately one mile north of Vasona Reservoir. The SCVWD operates this reservoir for water conservation purposes only. However, due to the presence of this reservoir in the watershed, there may be some incidental flood control benefits.

In addition to recharge uses, Calero Reservoir, like Almaden, Anderson and Coyote Reservoirs, has been designated as an emergency source of raw water for the SCVWD if either quantity or quality problems arise with normal water sources. Calero Reservoir collects runoff from a seven square mile drainage area and also receives surplus surface water from Almaden Reservoir via the Almaden-Calero Canal. Excess runoff from Almaden is transferred to Calero Reservoir which has a storage capacity five times greater than that of Almaden.

The SCVWD has discussed plans to eventually raise the level of Calero Reservoir. The District would only act on the plans if the County Transportation Agency were to relocate McKean Road further south in response to demands from future development projects. This rise in Calero Reservoir level would inundate all existing recreational development at the Park with the exception of Park trails on

FIGURE 2.3.A -- CALERO RESERVOIR VICINITY

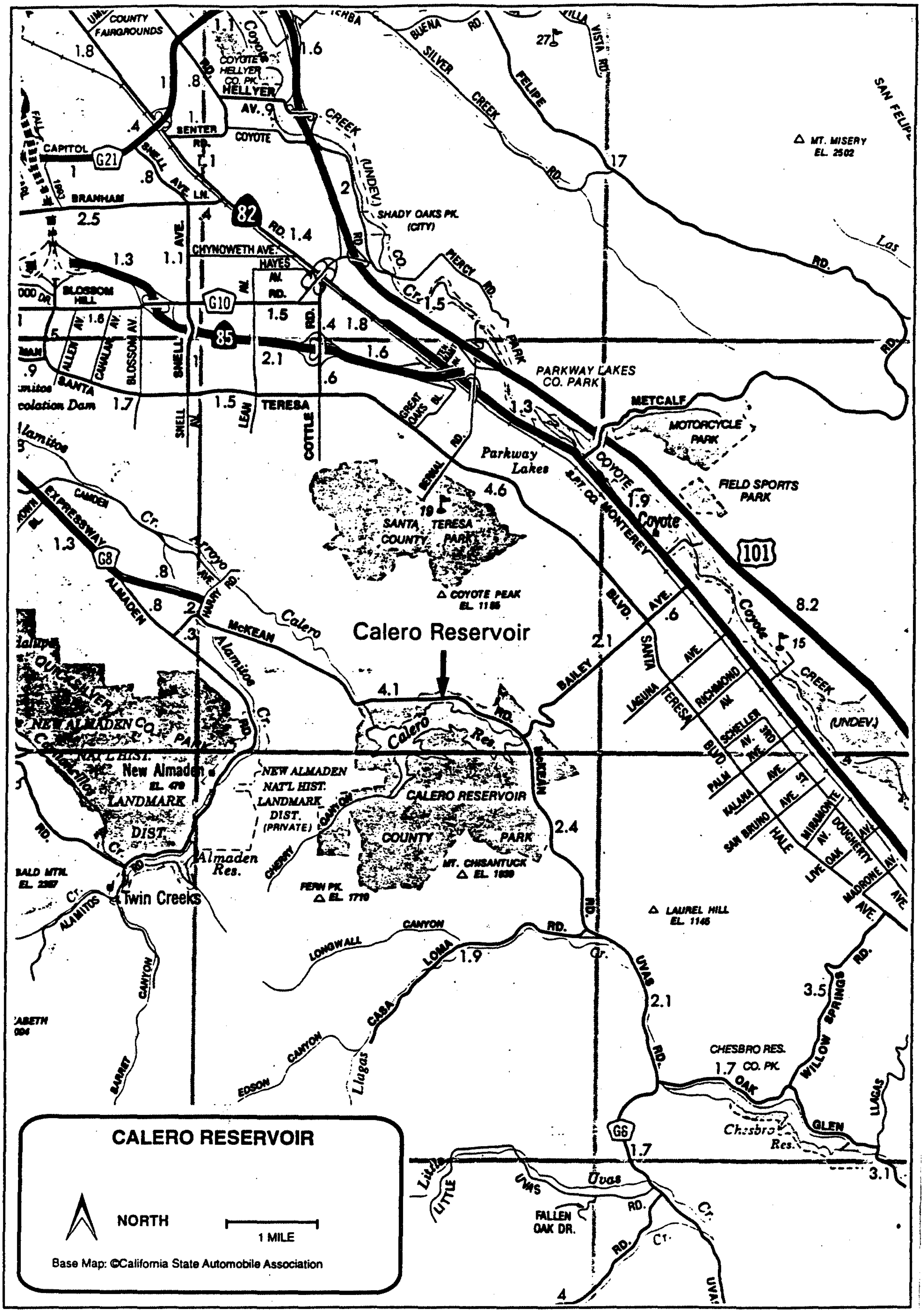
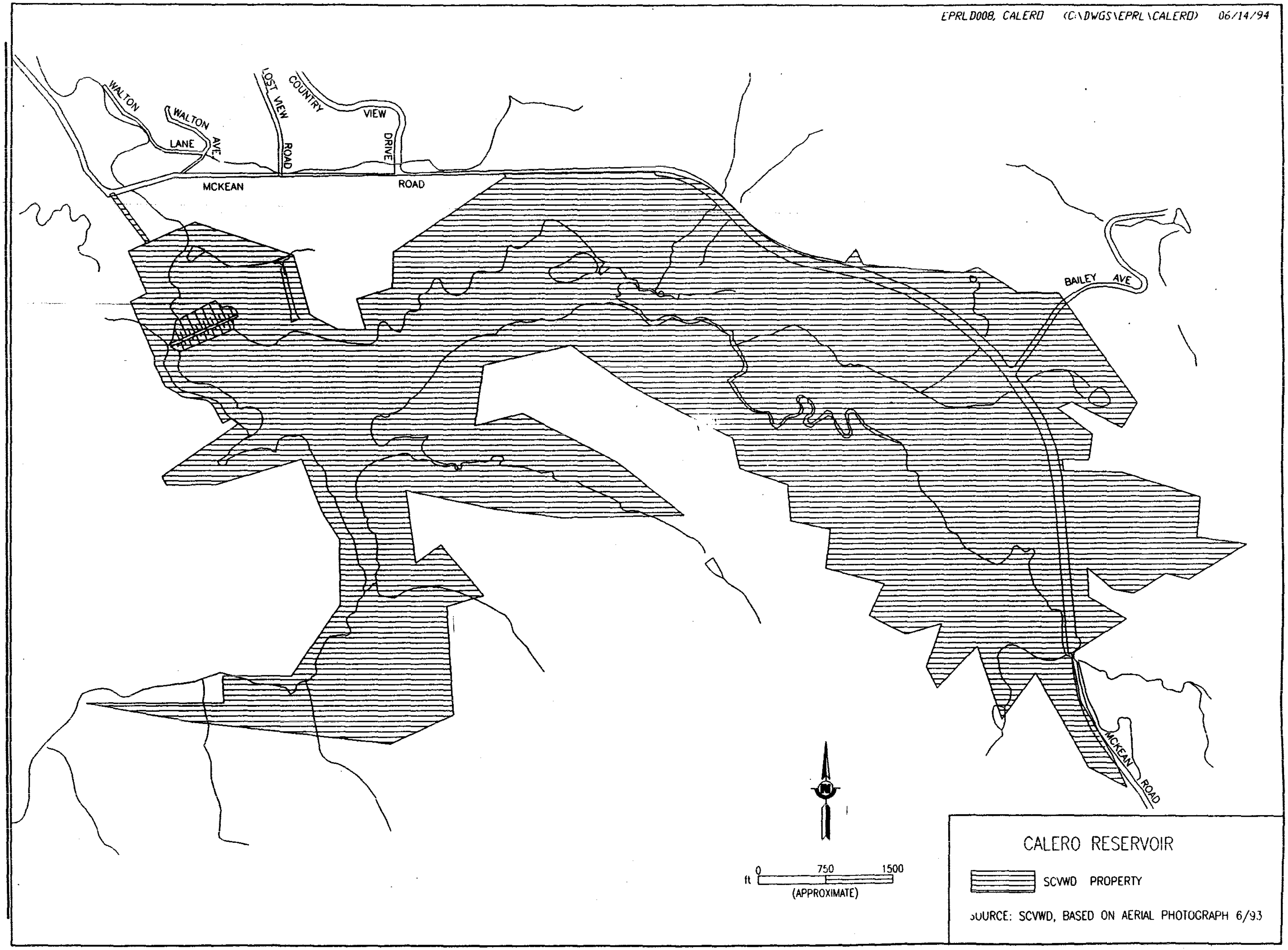


FIGURE 2.3:B -- CALERO RESERVOIR LEASE AREA



SOURCE: SCVWD, BASED ON AERIAL PHOTOGRAPH 6/93

FIGURE 2.3.C -- CALERO RESERVOIR AERIAL PHOTOGRAPH

EPRL-CA.FH3, 06/10/94, CALERO

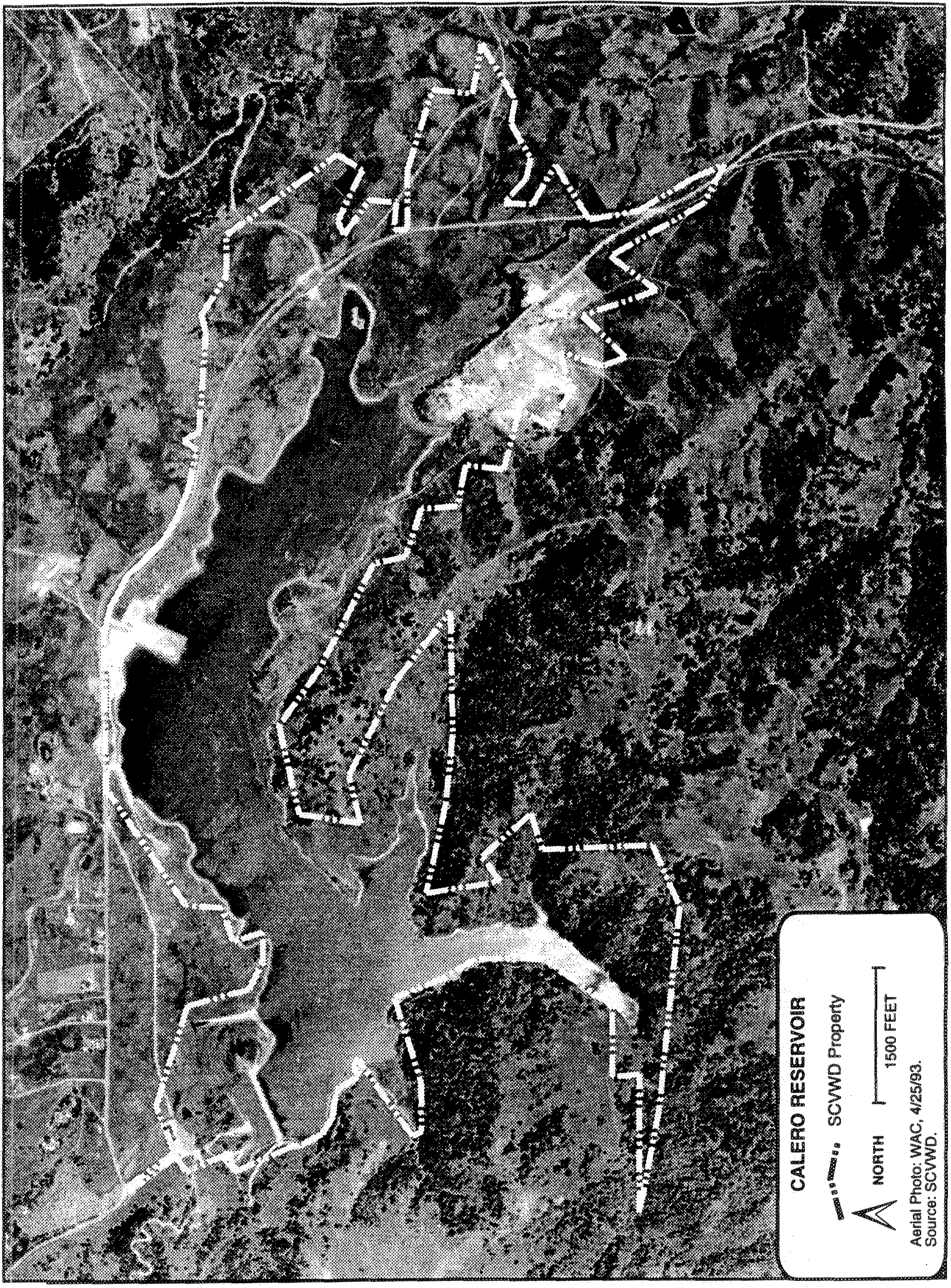
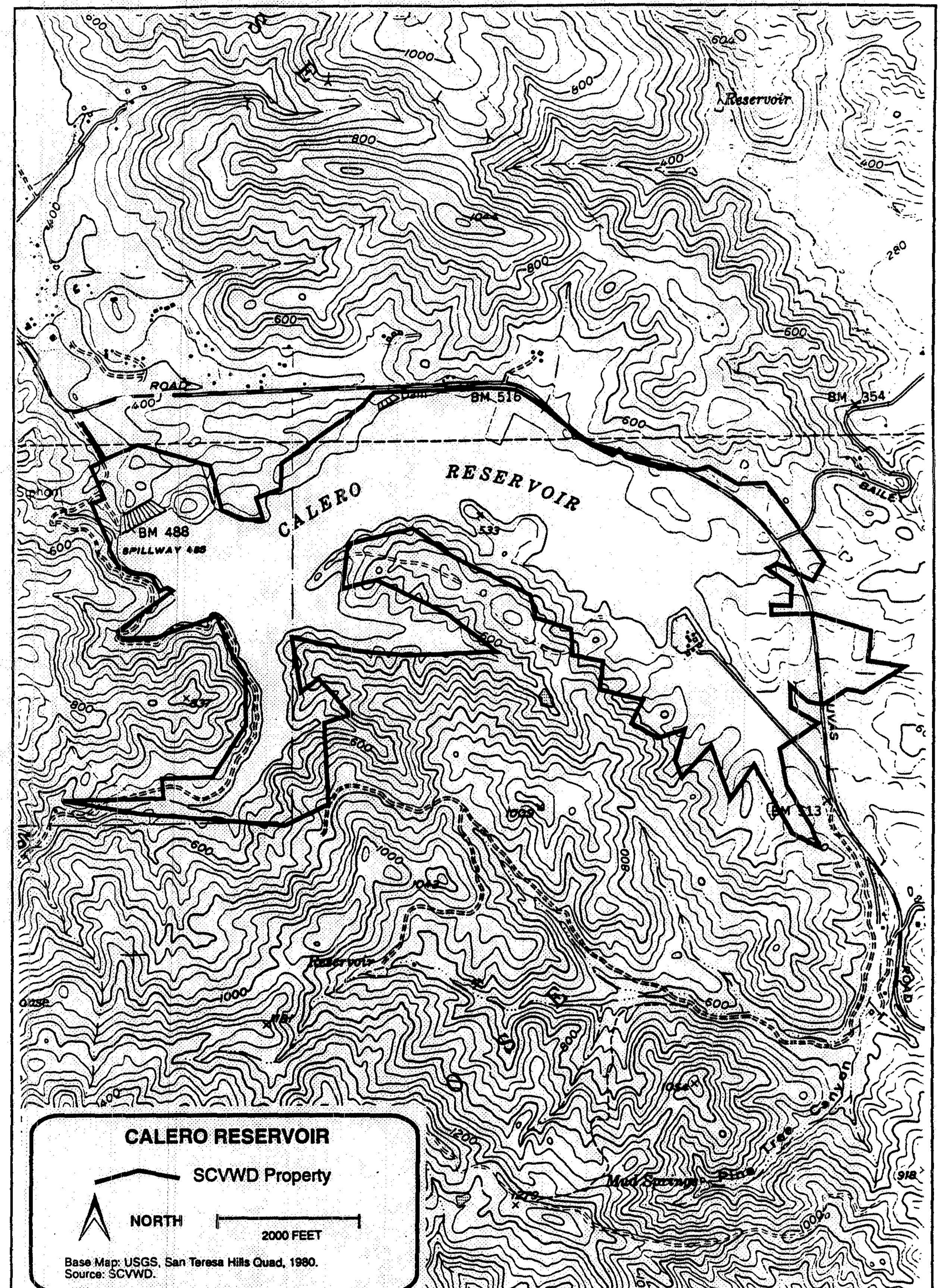
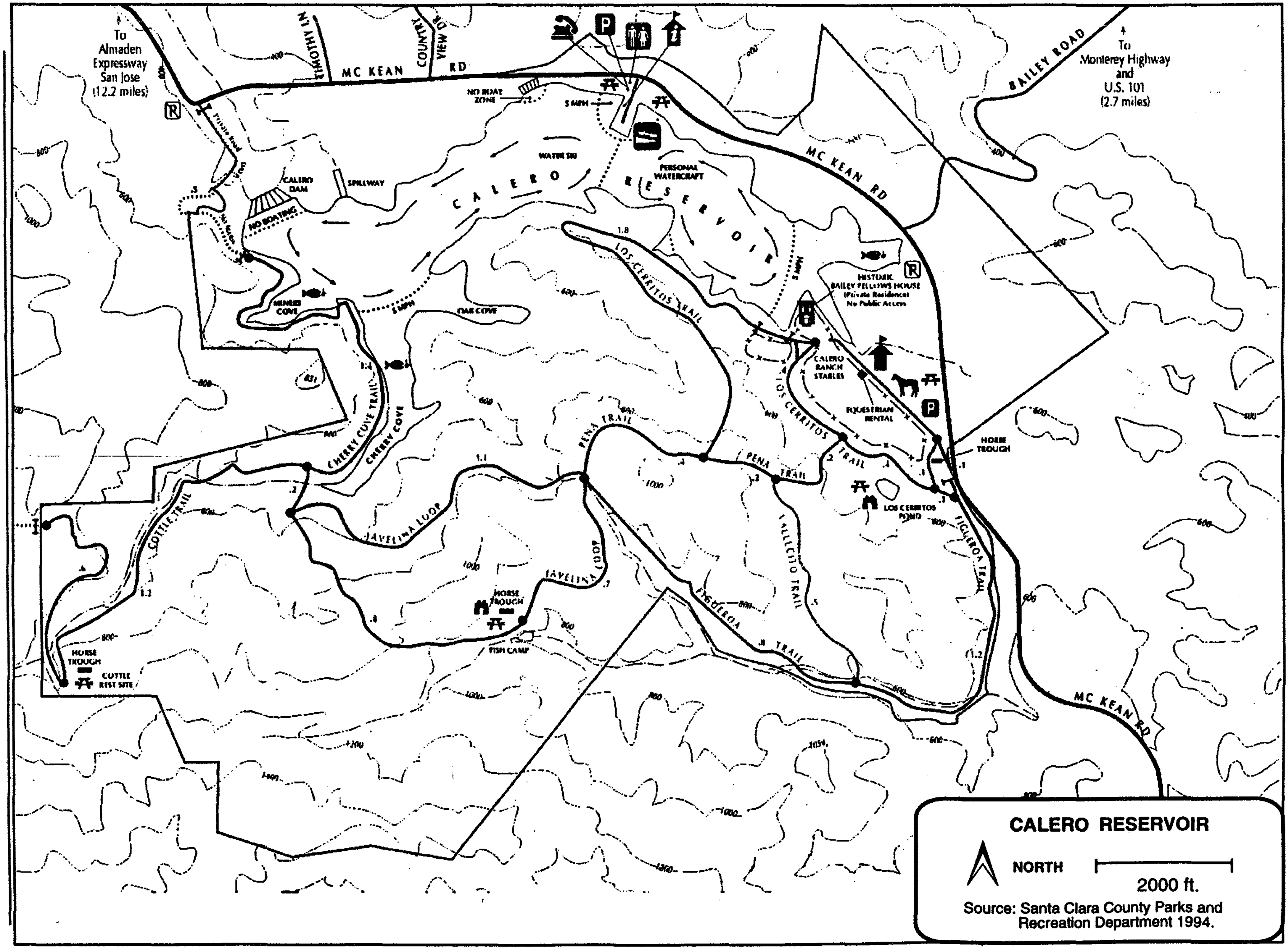


FIGURE 2.3.D -- CALERO RESERVOIR TOPOGRAPHY



Base Map: USGS, San Teresa Hills Quad, 1980.
Source: SCVWD.

EPRL-CO1.FH3, 08/02/94, Calero Reservoir



Source: Santa Clara County Parks and Recreation Department 1994.

FIGURE 2.3.E -- CALERO COUNTY PARK AND RESERVOIR FACILITIES

the northern slopes and would precipitate the development of new Park facilities. In terms of overall SCVWD facilities improvements, the expansion of Calero Reservoir is not considered to be one of the highest priorities as McKean Road improvements are not yet scheduled by Santa Clara County Transportation Agency. The level of Calero Reservoir would probably not be raised during the 15 year period of the SCVWD/SCCPRD lease.

A Master Plan for Calero County Park and a Draft Environmental Impact Report on the proposed Master Plan have been circulated. The impacts of proposed Park improvements were addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Report on the proposed Master Plan. The proposed Master Plan has not been finalized pending the development of a SCVWD-wide Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan. Any proposed Park improvements must be in compliance with overall watershed planning. Focusing on the renewal of the lease specifically for Calero Reservoir, this initial study addresses only planning efforts which have been approved and are planned for implementation during the lease term. The proposed Park Master Plan is still in the planning stage and is subject to separate CEQA review.

Access. Calero Reservoir County Park is accessed by McKean Road which follows the northern shore of Calero Reservoir. McKean Road, originating in San Jose, can be reached from the west via Highway 87 and the Almaden Expressway. McKean Road intersects with Bailey Road at the northeast tip of the Reservoir. From Bailey Road, three primary north/south arterials in southern San Jose can be accessed: Santa Teresa Boulevard, Monterey Highway and Highway 101 (see Figure 2.3.A).

Vegetation. The northern and eastern shoreline and adjacent lands within the lease area are primarily non-native grasslands with areas of freshwater marsh in the sloughs and drainage inlets north and adjacent to the Calero Ranch Stables. The southern shoreline is grassland with scattered oak trees and chaparral. At least one section of the ridge directly across from the boat launch area is thought to be serpentine bunchgrass community. Both sides of Cherry Creek slough and much of the ridge across from the boat launch area are oak woodlands, including valley oak woodland growing close to the Reservoir perimeter.

Land Use. The lease area of Calero Reservoir is principally within the City of San Jose and is designated as Public Park/Open Space in the City of San Jose Horizon 2000 General Plan. The remainder of Calero Reservoir County Park is within unincorporated Santa Clara County and is designated in the County General Plan as Existing Regional Parks. Lands north of McKean Road and west and east of the Reservoir are in unincorporated area and are designated as Hillsides and developed as low density rural residential.

Park Use. Motorized and non-motorized boating, jet skiing, fishing, horseback riding, hiking and picnicking are allowed within the Park and take place within the lease area boundary (see Figures 2.3.C and 2.3.E). Segments of the Juan Crespi and Cherry Creek Trails are within the SCVWD lease area. Limited body contact activities such as jet skiing, water skiing and windsurfing are also allowed under the terms set forth by the Department of Health Services and described in the SCVWD Emergency Reservoir Management Plan. The Plan permits "limited body contact recreation" at Calero County Park under normal and Stage 1 conditions (water treatment available for supplemental reservoir water). A Stage 2 water emergency entails supplement to normal water supplies, but complete water treatment is not available. In a Stage 2 water emergency, even limited body contact water recreation would be halted.

Calero Park is one of only three County Parks which allows limited body water contact recreation and therefore is one of the more popular parks in the County System. A limited number of boats and jet skis are allowed on the Reservoir at one time to reduce the potential for a boating accident. Jet skiers are restricted to the eastern half of the lake and motorboats to the western half. Reduced speed or "no wake" areas are designated by buoys to protect narrow sloughs from wave impacts or to restrict use in areas that support marsh habitat.

Usually, park staff allow boat launching on a first-come basis during weekdays and non-holidays. In order to avoid congestion and control the number of boats on the lake, boaters call ahead to reserve a launch time for weekends and holidays, April 1 through September 30.

The number of boats allowed on the reservoir at one time is based on one boat per 6 surface acres of water. When reservoir levels are low, such as in June 1994, the number of boats allowed on the Reservoir was limited to 30. The eastern half of the reservoir, normally reserved for jet skiers, is shallower than the west, so as the reservoir level drops, much of the eastern half of the reservoir can become too shallow for use.

Park staff counted 29,219 vehicles and 110,951 visitors entering the Park during the first six months of fiscal year 1993-1994 (July 1-December 31, 1993). Park staff estimated the number of users participating in each of the following recreation activities for the first half of the 1993/1994 fiscal year:

picnicking	16,125
power boats	9,489
fishing	7,733
hiking	13,925
horseback riding	13,286

No figures are available for bicyclists, water skiers, jet skiers or windsurfers. Boating totals include boaters using non-motorized boats such as sailboats or rowboats as all boats must be launched from one area.

Calero Reservoir receives excess runoff from Almaden Reservoir via the Calero/Almaden Canal during periods of wet weather. No mercury mining historically took place in the Calero Reservoir watershed but naturally-occurring mercury deposits are present in the watershed. Sampling of the tissue of fish caught in Calero Reservoir has determined that mercury levels exceed those set by the US Food and Drug Administration (Camp Dresser & McKee 1992). As a result, the SCVWD has posted signs in four languages warning the public not to eat fish caught in Calero Reservoir. The signs have been posted at all regular access points to the Reservoir (S. Bergkamp, SCCPRD).

Recreational activities within the lease lands focus on two separate areas along the lakeshore: 1) the boat launch/picnic area roughly midway on the Reservoir northern shore and accessed from McKean Road, and 2) the equestrian center at the southeastern corner of the Reservoir and accessed from Uvas Road.

Boat Launch/Picnic Area. This day use area is open from 8:00 am to one half hour after sunset year-round. Recreational facilities have been constructed on and beside a large, rectangular parking area that juts out into the Reservoir and provides 100 double-spaced parking spaces to accommodate both cars and boat trailers (see Figure 2.3.E). Overflow parking is provided on either side of the main parking area adjacent to McKean Road.

The boat launching ramp is at the southern end of the rectangular lot. Boats are allowed on Calero Reservoir from 7:00 am to one hour before sunset during the summer months. During the remainder of the year, Park hours begin at 8:00 am. Lake traffic is divided so that the western half of the Reservoir is reserved for jet skis and the eastern half for power boats and water skiing.

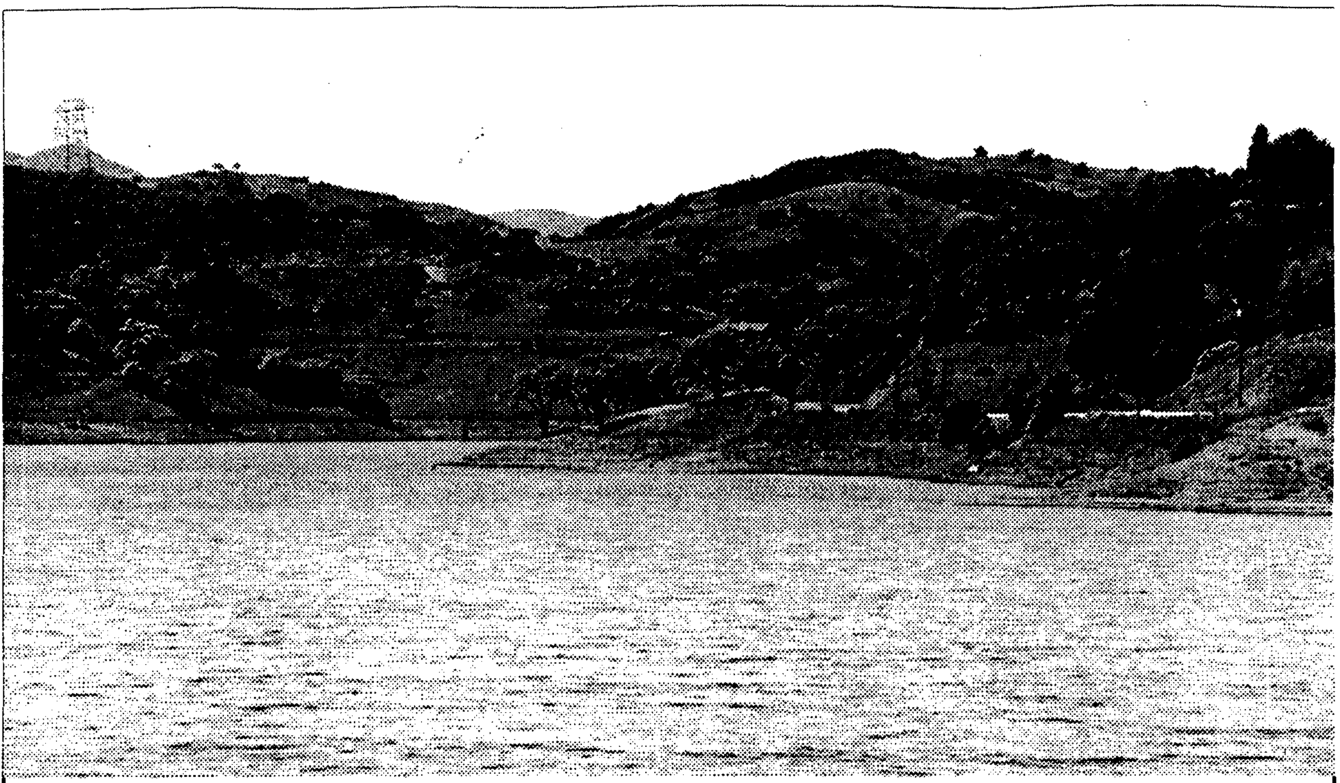
Two picnic areas have been built along the shore on either side of the main parking area. Wooden shade structures have been built over each picnic table in the western picnic area while trees provide shade on the eastern picnic area. Chemical toilets and a telephone are also provided. Park employees staff an entrance kiosk to collect fees and provide information during the spring and summer months. Fees are collected year-round and self-registration is used when the kiosk is not staffed.

A $3.00 per vehicle day use fee is collected daily at Calero Reservoir from one week before Memorial Day to one week after Labor Day and on weekends and holidays during the remainder of the year. Lake use fees are collected daily throughout the year. During the spring and summer, the weekend fee for launching a boat is typically $12.00. This total is comprised of a $3.00 per vehicle charge, a $5.00 per boat or jet ski launch fee and a $4.00 per advance reservation fee. The advance reservation fee is collected at the time of launch.

Calero Ranch Stables. Calero Ranch Stables is leased to a private concessionaire by the SCCPRD. The lease is currently renewed on a month-to-month basis pending the approval of a new lease agreement expected in Fall 1994 (D. Logan, SCCPRD). Visitors can board horses, take riding lessons, or rent a horse for use on Park trails. From the stable area, equestrians can access 12 miles of hiking/equestrian trails.

2.4. CHESBRO RESERVOIR

EPRL-PHO.PM4, 6/3/94, P3



Chesbro Reservoir

View to the Northwest from Chesbro Dam
Chesbro Reservoir County Park

Capacity: 8,952 acre feet
Average Surface Area: 265 acres
Completed: 1955
Dam Height: 95 feet high, 467,000 cubic yards of material.
Lease History: 1989 lease agreement.
Lease Area: 528 acres.
Park Area: 528 acres.
Recreational Uses: Fishing, non-motorized or electric motor boating.

2.4. CHESBRO RESERVOIR

Location and General Description. Chesbro Reservoir is located on Oak Glen Road in the unincorporated area of southwest Santa Clara County just west of the city limits of Morgan Hill (see Figure 2.4.A). The lease area as recorded by the SCVWD is shown in Figure 2.4.B. The lease area and vicinity land use and vegetation are shown on the aerial photo in Figure 2.4.C. Figure 2.4.D. shows the lease area in relation to vicinity topography.

SCVWD Lease and Use. The primary purpose for SCVWD's Chesbro Reservoir is to provide groundwater recharge to the Llagas Groundwater Basin. The SCVWD operates this reservoir for water conservation purposes only. However, due to the presence of this reservoir in the watershed, there may be some incidental flood control benefits. The 528-acre lease area is coequal with the Park unit. The lease area (and park unit) consists of:

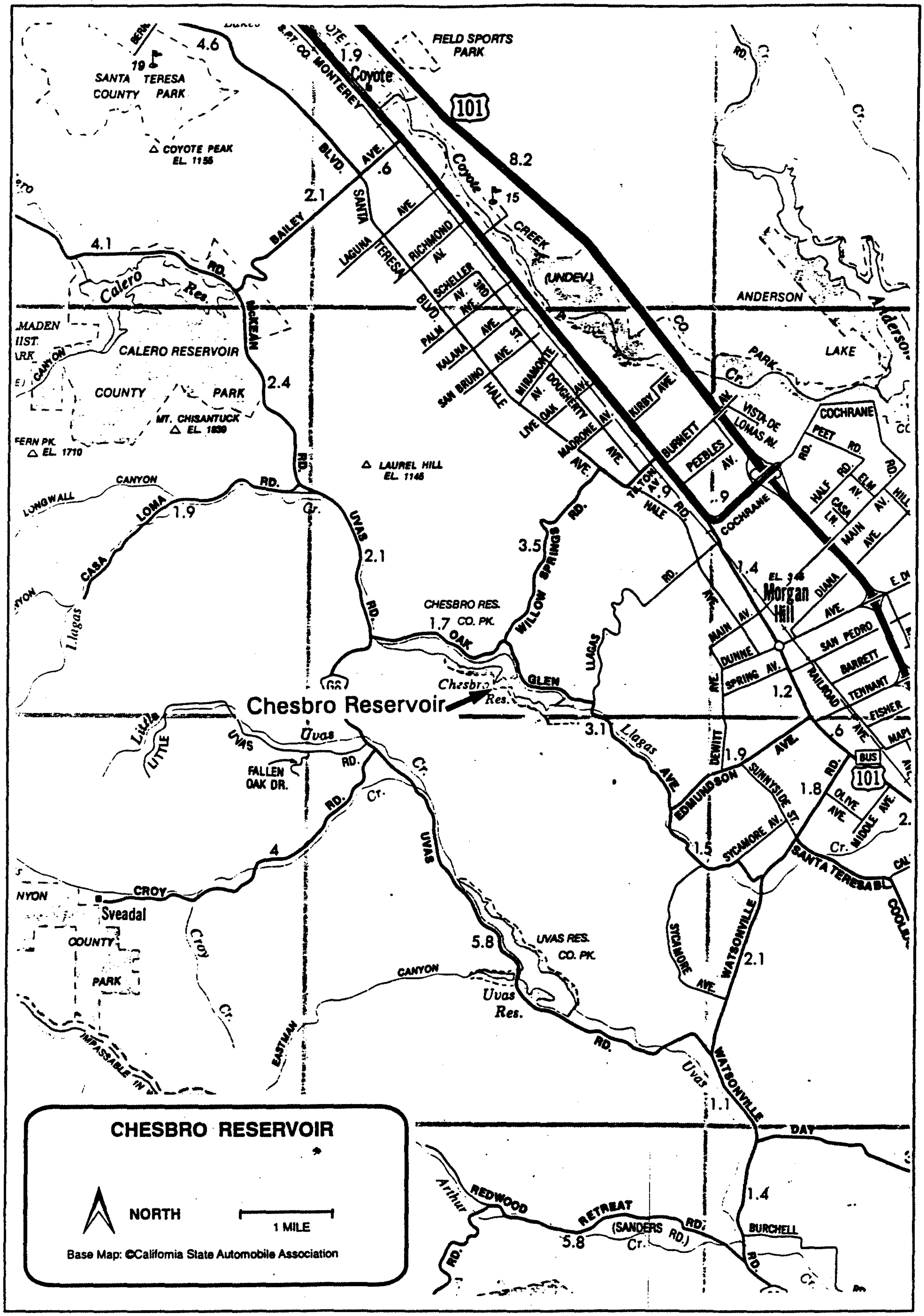
- the Reservoir including a 93-acre parcel comprising the slough formed by water backing up into the Willow Springs drainage and adjacent lands to the east of Willow Springs Road;
- adjacent lands 15 feet above the high water mark of the Reservoir;
- the spillway and dam area; and
- land on the lower slopes of the north ridge at the north and east of the intersection of Oak Glen and Willow Springs Roads. The area contains two sloughs which extend north of Oak Glen Road; the slough formed at the base of Willow Springs canyon and a much smaller slough to the east.

The Reservoir was completed in 1955. The SCVWD acquired Chesbro Reservoir from the Gavillan Water District in 1987. Chesbro Reservoir has been leased to the SCCPRD since 1989. The lease is currently renewed on a month-to-month basis pending the approval of the currently proposed lease agreement.

Geography. Chesbro Reservoir is sited in a narrow, winding west northwest-trending valley at the base of two steep ridges in the eastern foothills of the Santa Cruz Mountains just west of the Santa Clara Valley. The finger ridges above the north shore of the Reservoir range in elevation from 800 to 1100 feet in elevation. The southern ridge is a more uniform block, with less deeply incised drainage with ridgetop elevations ranging from 900 feet in the northwest to 1,500 feet above sea level near the dam (see Figure 2.4.D).

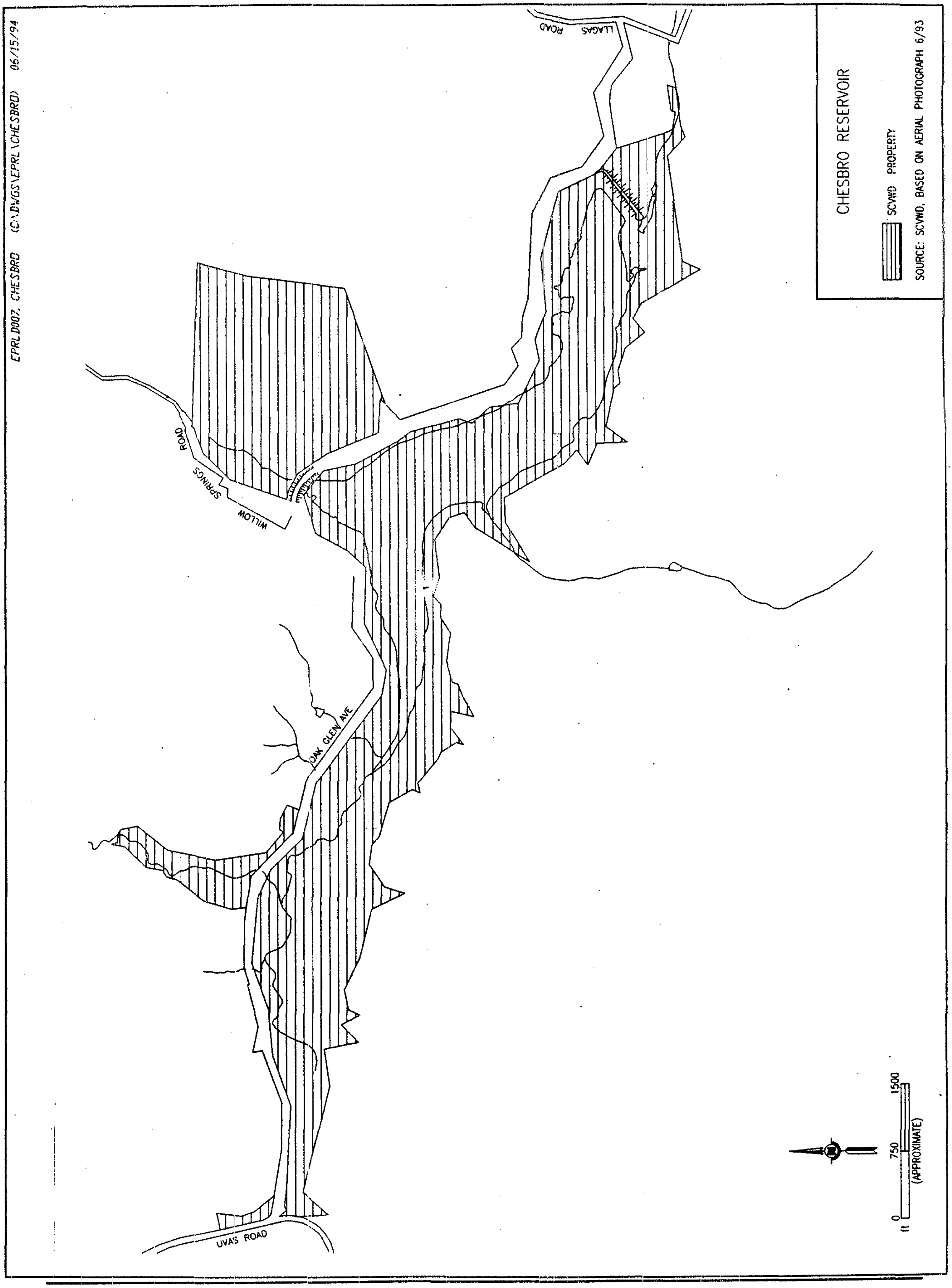
The Reservoir dam impounds Llagas Creek, a northwest to southeast running creek which drains into the Pajaro River which forms the Santa Clara/San Benito County border. Cañada Garcia flows into Llagas Creek west of the juncture with the reservoir. Willow Springs Creek flows into the midpoint of the Reservoir from the north. Below the Reservoir, the Paradise Creek joins Llagas Creek and created the floodplain of Paradise Valley. The Reservoir has an average surface area of

FIGURE 2.4.A -- CHESBRO RESERVOIR VICINITY



Base Map: ©California State Automobile Association

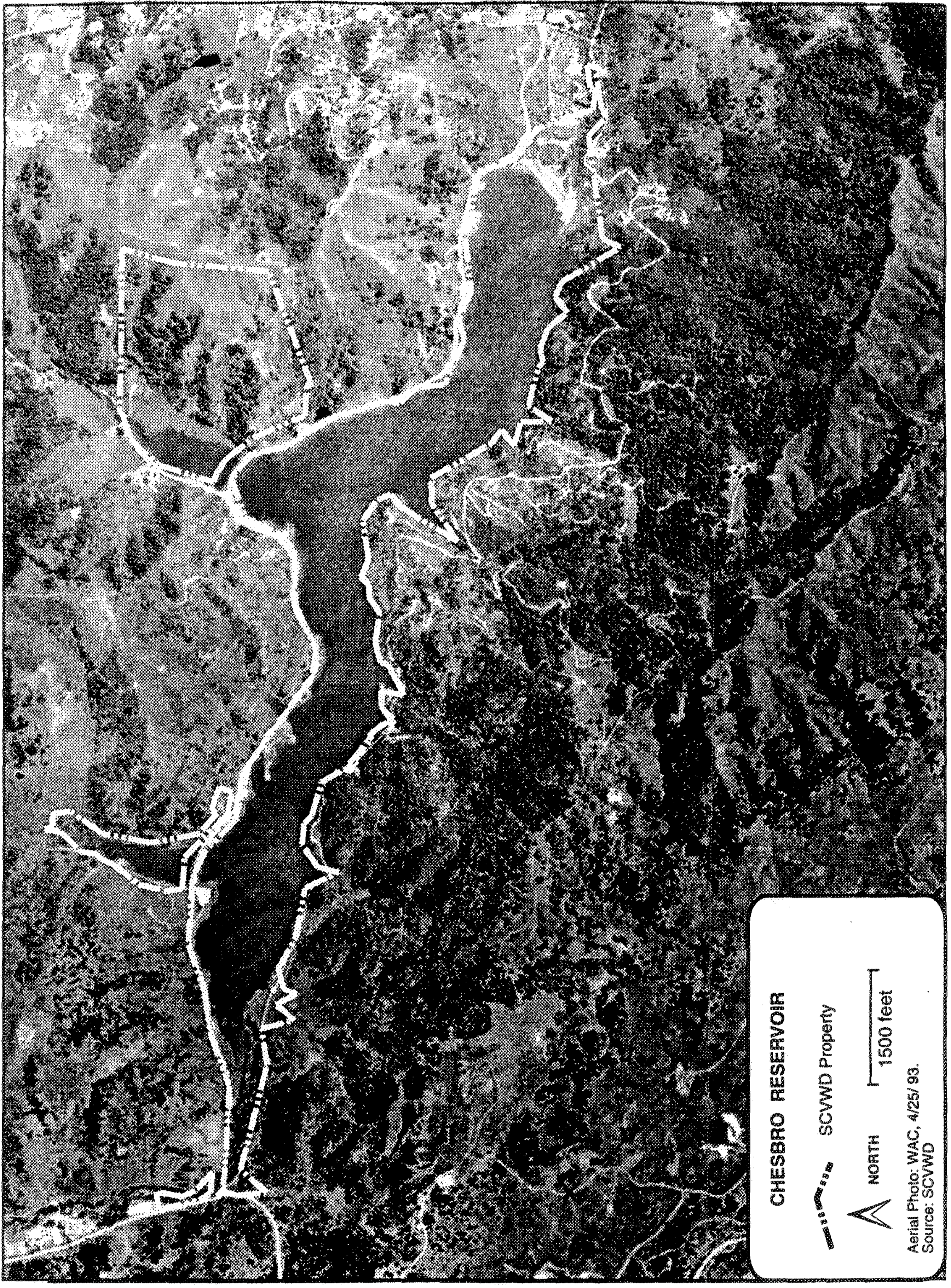
FIGURE 2.4.B -- CHESBRO RESERVOIR LEASE AREA



SOURCE: SCVWD, BASED ON AERIAL PHOTOGRAPH 6/93

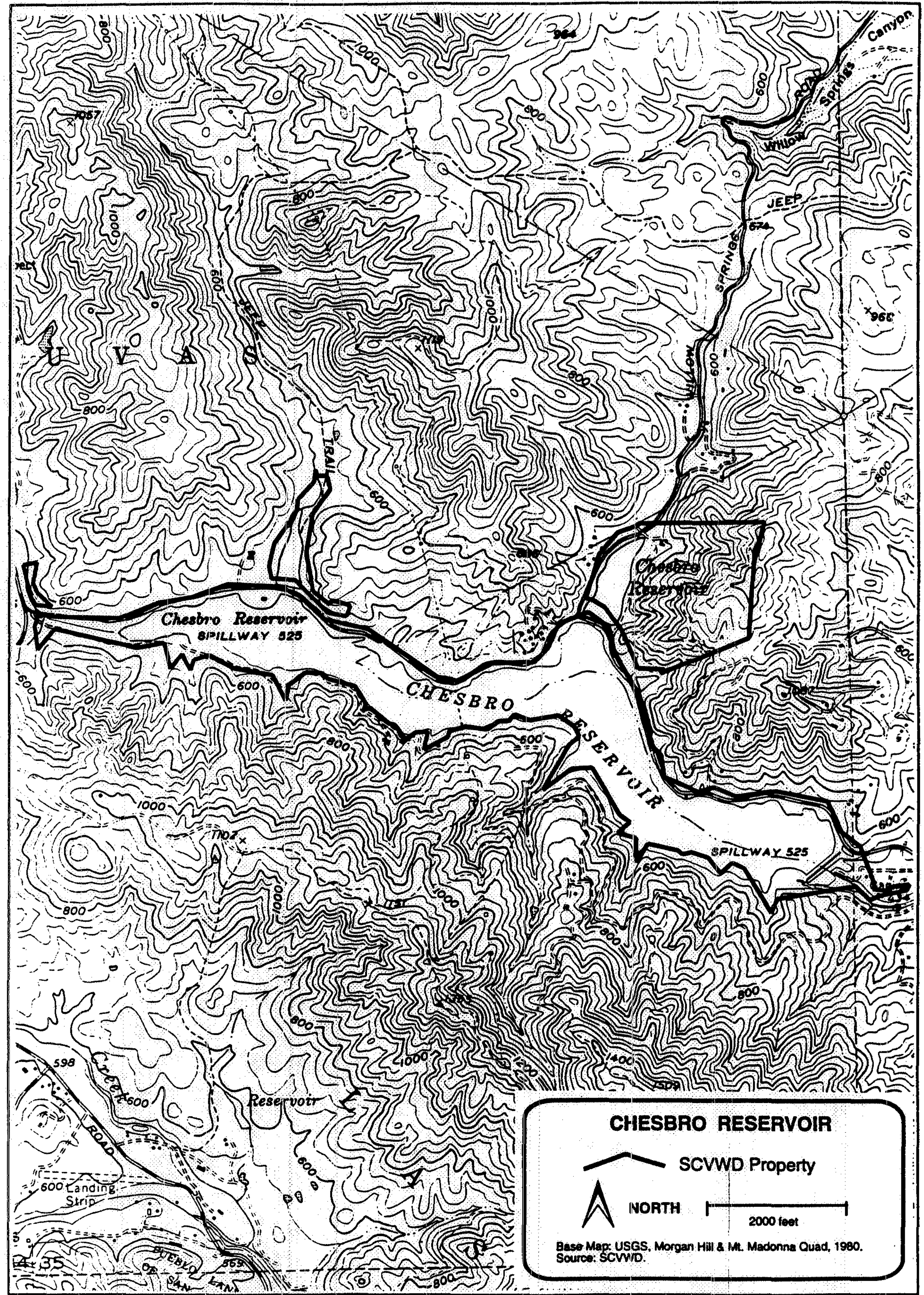
FIGURE 2.4.C -- CHESBRO RESERVOIR AERIAL PHOTOGRAPH

EPRL-CH.FH3, 06/09/94, Chesbro



Aerial Photo: WAC, 4/25/93.
Source: SCVWD

FIGURE 2.4.D -- CHESBRO RESERVOIR TOPOGRAPHY



Base Map: USGS, Morgan Hill & Mt. Madonna Quad, 1980.
Source: SCVWD.

265 acres and is roughly 2 miles long and 1,500 feet wide at its widest point near Willow Springs Road.

Access. Access to Chesbro Reservoir from Highway 101 is the Cochrane Road exit westbound in the City of Morgan Hill and then northbound on the Monterey Highway, west on Tilton Avenue, north on Hale Avenue to Willow Springs Road. Willow Springs Road, paralleling Willow Springs Creek intersects Oak Glen Road midway around the Reservoir. Oak Glen Road parallels the northern shore of the Reservoir. A second access road to Chesbro Reservoir is from Bailey Road southbound from Monterey Highway to Calero Reservoir and then southbound on Uvas Road. Chesbro Reservoir is approximately 3 miles southeast of Calero Reservoir and 3.5 miles north of Uvas Reservoir (see Figure 2.4.A).

Vegetation. Vegetation is primarily grasslands with scattered oak trees and shrubs on the slopes on the north side of the Reservoir. South of the Reservoir, vegetation is oak woodland with smaller areas of chaparral.

Land Use. Land use adjacent to the Reservoir is primarily rural residential to both the north and south. The Willow Springs community is north of the Reservoir on Willow Springs Road and consists of approximately nine residences. Residences on the south side of the Reservoir are accessed by unpaved road either locked or signed for no trespassing.

Park Use. Recreational activities at Chesbro Reservoir are primarily fishing and boating. No gasoline-powered boats are allowed. Non-power boats such as canoes or rafts and electric motor boats with trolling motors are commonly used. A $5.00 fee is collected for boat launch privileges. There are no picnic tables or grills and few areas suitable for picnicking. As the lease area/park area is confined to the shoreline of the Reservoir, there are no established trails within the park.

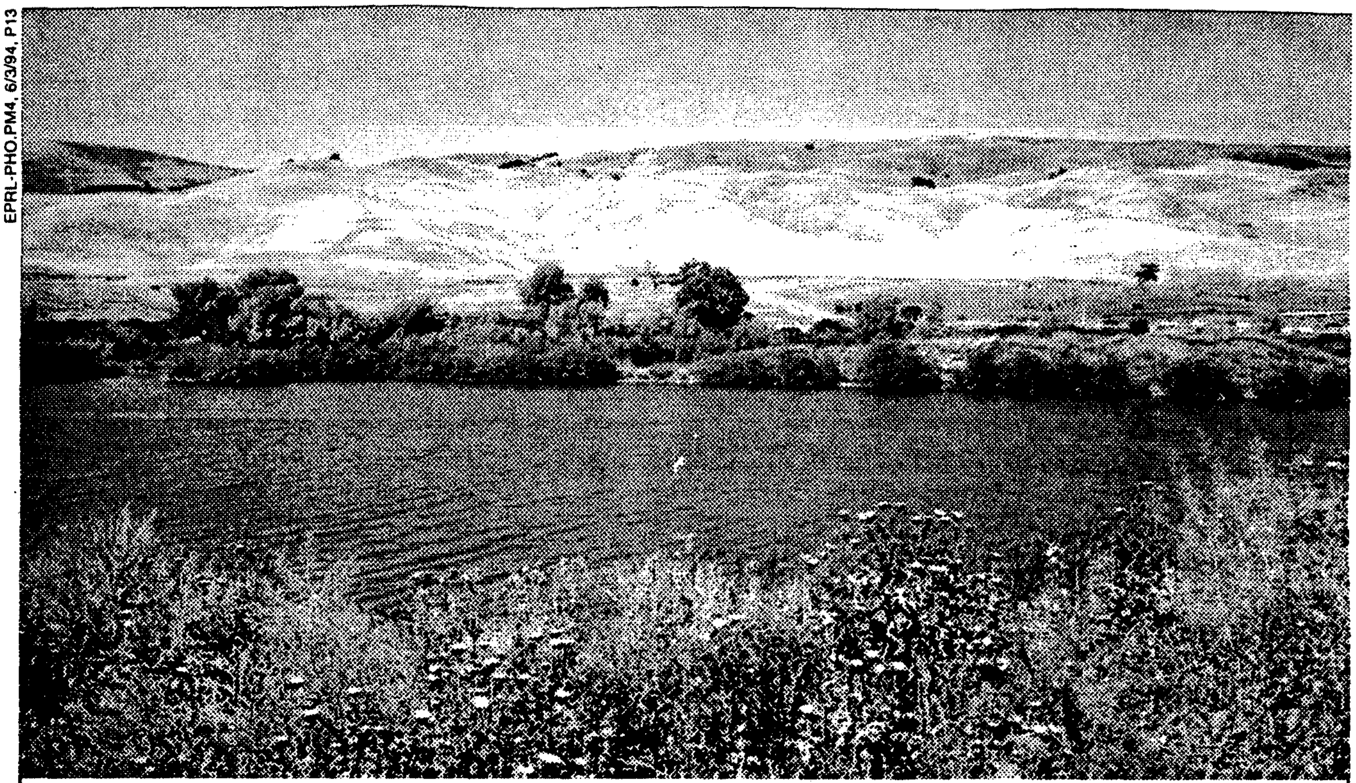
Recreational use at Chesbro increases when water levels are too low at the neighboring Uvas Reservoir to permit boat launching. No general visitation counts are presently kept for Chesbro Reservoir. In fiscal year 1992/1993, launch fees were collected for 798 boats and park staff estimated the number of visitors fishing at the Park to be at 8,036 (D. Smith, SCCPRD). During the present 1994 season, boating has been discontinued at Uvas Reservoir so Chesbro visitation has shown an increase.

Recreational use is diffused along the northern side of the Reservoir. Most parking is in pulloffs along Oak Glen Road both north and south of the Willow Springs intersection. Unofficial "volunteer" trails lead downslope from the pulloffs to the lakeshore. The pulloffs are used primarily for fishing access. A 15-car paved parking lot serves the boat launch area and is accessed from Oak Glen Road west of the dam. The parking area has chemical toilets. The access to the lot and boat launch is gated and locked from 1/2 hour before sunset to 8:00 am year-round.

Chesbro Reservoir is patrolled at least twice daily, seven days a year by ranger staff based at the Uvas Canyon Park Office. Ranger staff unlock the parking area/boat launch gate a 8:00 am and return to lock the gate 1/2 hour before sunset. During the summer peak season, overlapping shifts result in as many as 3 rangers patrolling Uvas and Chesbro Reservoirs at midday (D. Smith, SCCPRD). A patrol boat is used on a weekly basis to contact boaters and visitors along the shoreline. Often, by the end of the summer, Reservoir water levels are too low and boat launching is discontinued until stormwater runoff raises the Reservoir level.

2.5. COYOTE PERCOLATION POND

EPRL-PHO.PM4, 6/3/94, P13



Coyote Percolation Pond
View east toward Mt. Hamilton foothills

Capacity: 150 acre feet
Average Surface Area: 30 acres
Completed: Not known
Lease History: Not included in previous lease agreement.
Lease Area: 20 acres.
Recreational Uses: No public recreational uses.

2.5. COYOTE PERCOLATION POND

Location and General Description. The Coyote Percolation Pond is located in Southern San Jose at the northeast corner of the intersection of Metcalf Road and Highway 101 (see Figure 2.5.1). The lease area as recorded by the SCVWD is shown in Figure 2.5.B. The lease area and vicinity land use and vegetation are shown on the aerial photo in Figure 2.5.C. Figure 2.5.D. shows the lease area in relation to vicinity topography.

SCVWD Lease and Use. The lease area is one 20-acre pond in a series of percolation ponds impounding the northwest/southeast trending Coyote Creek which flows along the center of the Santa Clara Valley. The series of ponds are used for groundwater recharge of the Santa Clara Groundwater Subbasin. The Coyote Percolation Pond was not part of a previous lease agreement with the SCCPRD.

Geography. The percolation pond is within the Santa Clara Valley, a flat alluvial floodplain, that lies between the Diablo Range on the east and the Santa Cruz Mountains on the west.

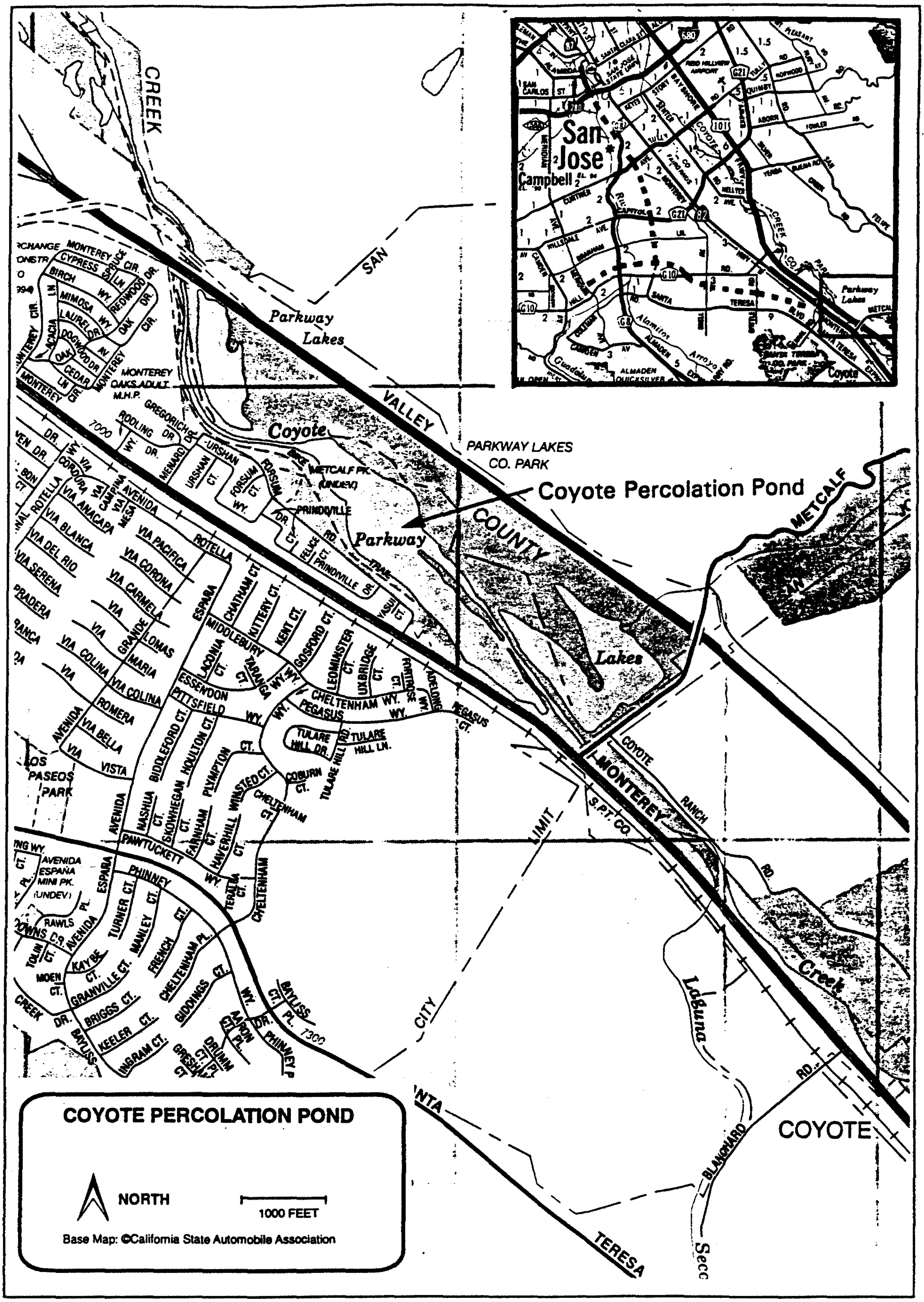
Access. On the east, the pond is adjacent to Highway 101 and can be reached by taking the Metcalf Road exit to the west. On the west side of the lease area is the Coyote Creek Trail which begins at Kelley Park on Story Road in San Jose and continues south past the lease area to the Burnett parcel in Anderson Reservoir County Park. Coyote Creek Trail is a multi-use paved trail available for bicycles, skaters, runners, wheelchairs and pedestrians. Access to the shore of the pond is either from this trail or from the residential neighborhood west of the County Park. A new residential area lies between Monterey Highway and Forsum Road. Forsum Road is directly adjacent to the boundary of Coyote Creek County Park and also has access to Coyote Creek Trail (see Figure 2.5.A).

Vegetation. Vegetation at the site is non-native grassland and freshwater marsh communities with scattered oaks and willows.

Land Use. The parcel is bordered on the east by Highway 101, the principal north/south corridor in the Santa Clara County. South of the Coyote Percolation Pond is the Parkways Lakes Concession, a private recreation area that allows fishing in a 22-acre stocked pond. Visitors to Parkways Lakes do have access to the Coyote Percolation Pond. To the west of the lease area, is a new single family home residential area which also has access to Coyote Creek Trail.

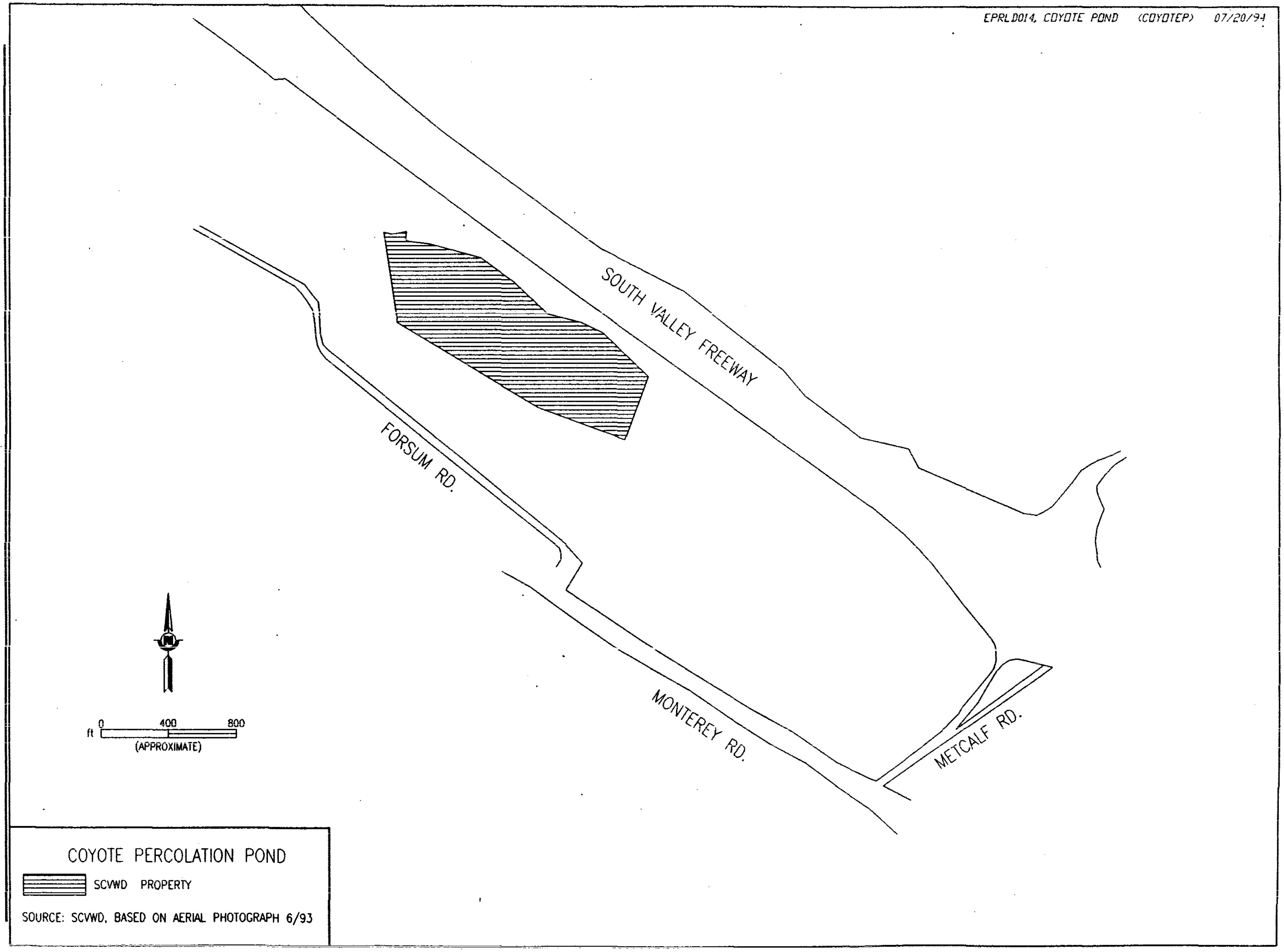
Park Use. No recreational uses currently are allowed in the lease area of Coyote Percolation Pond. The SCCPRD does grant special use permits to a slalom waterskiing club for the adjacent long, narrow pond southwest of the Coyote Percolation Pond outside of the lease area (A. LaFleur, SCCPRD). In the future, special events could also be allowed with approval of a special use permit by SCCPRD administration (D. Logan, SCCPRD).

FIGURE 2.5.A -- COYOTE PERCOLATION POND VICINITY



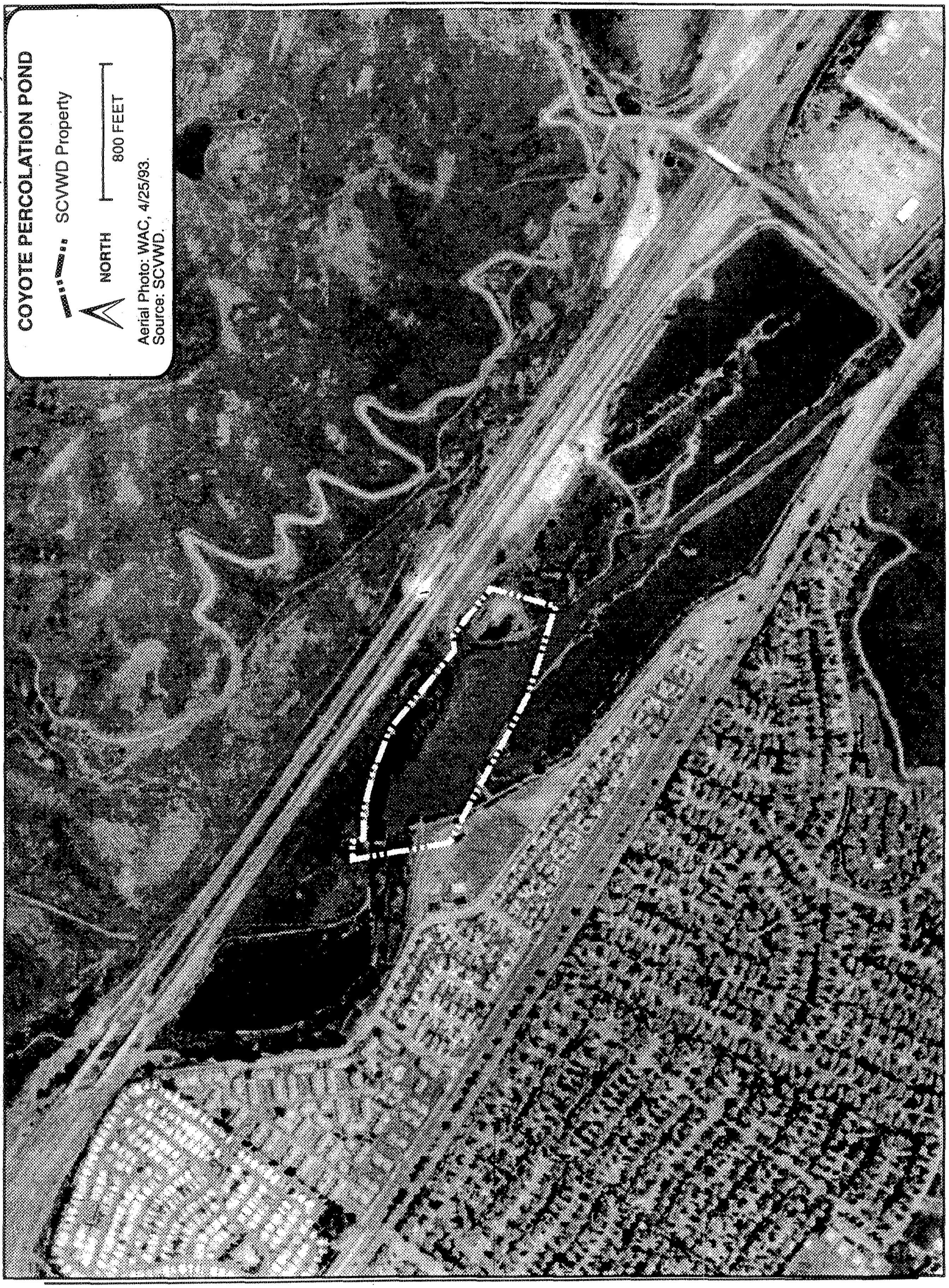
Base Map: ©California State Automobile Association

FIGURE 2.5.B -- COYOTE PERCOLATION POND LEASE AREA



SOURCE: SCVWD, BASED ON AERIAL PHOTOGRAPH 6/93

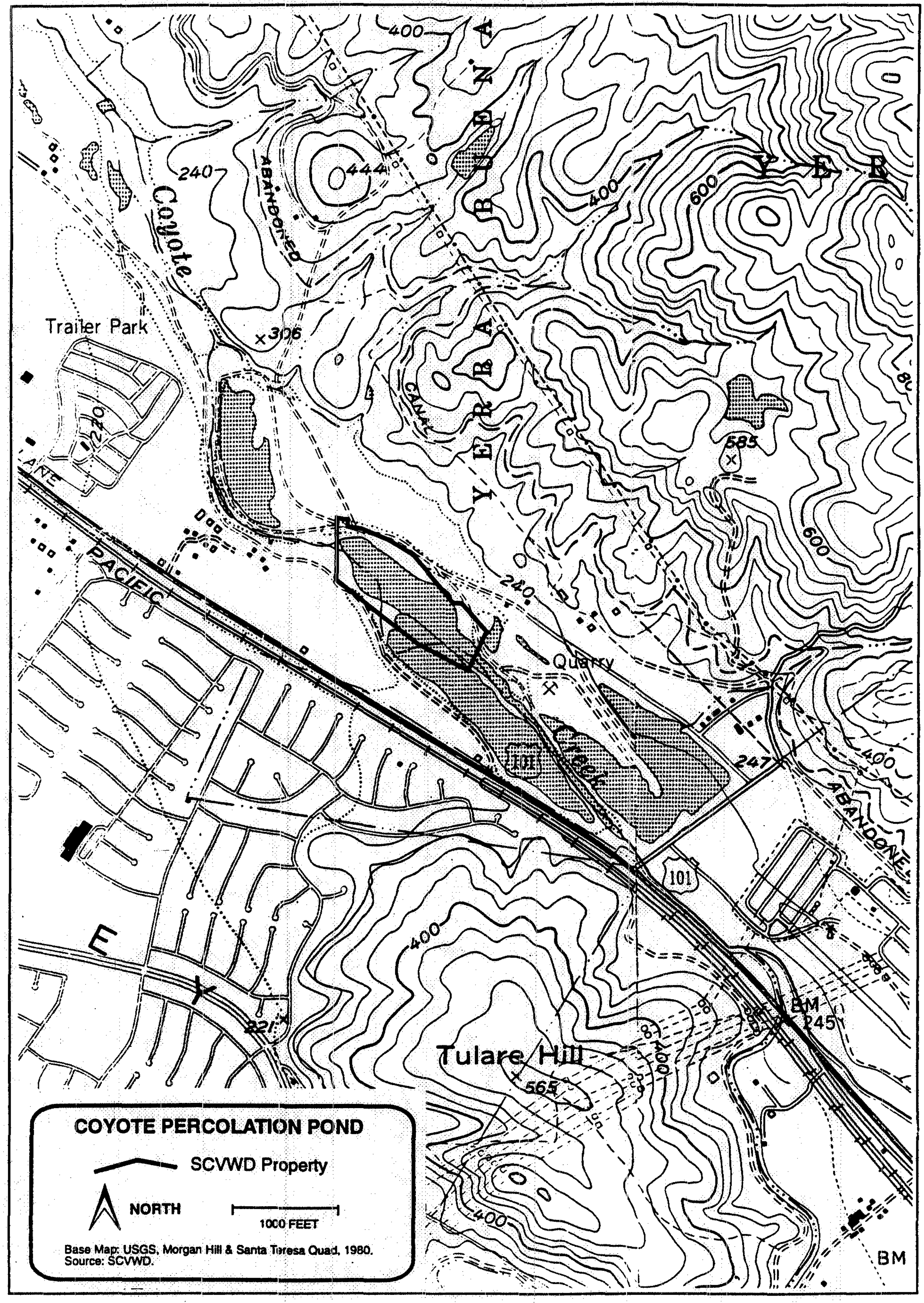
FIGURE 2.5.C -- COYOTE PERCOLATION POND AERIAL PHOTOGRAPH



Aerial Photo: WAC, 4/25/93.
Source: SCVWD.

EPRL-CP.FH3, 07/20/94, Coyote Pond

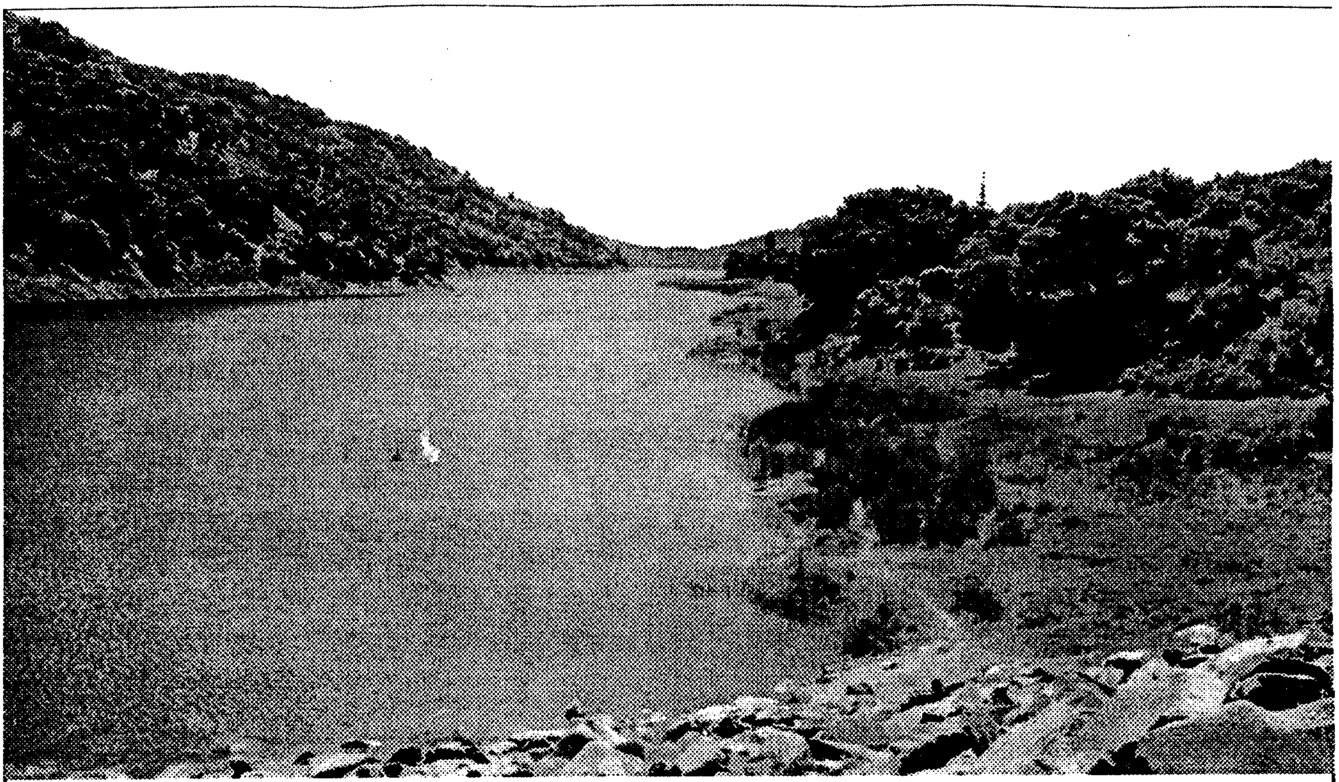
FIGURE 2.5.D -- COYOTE PERCOLATION POND TOPOGRAPHY



Base Map: USGS, Morgan Hill & Santa Teresa Quad, 1980.
Source: SCVWD.

2.6 COYOTE RESERVOIR

EPRL-PHO.PM4, 6/3/94, P1



Coyote Reservoir

View North from Lake View Picnic Area,
Coyote Lake County Park

Capacity: 22,925 acre feet
Average Surface Area: 648 acres
Completed: 1936
Dam Height: 120 feet high; 1,060,000 cubic yards of material.
Lease History: 1969 lease agreement.
Lease Area: 760 acres.
Park Area: 796 acres.
Recreational Uses: Fishing, motorized and non-motorized boating, water skiing, windsurfing, jet skiing, camping, picnicking, hiking.

2.6 COYOTE RESERVOIR

Location and General Description. Coyote Reservoir and adjacent lease lands are within Coyote Lake County Park situated in the southern portion of Santa Clara County approximately 4.5 miles east of the City of Gilroy (see Figure 2.6.A). The 638-acre reservoir impounds Coyote Creek and collects stormwater runoff from the surrounding watershed. The reservoir is approximately 3.2 miles in length and 1,800 feet at its widest point. The 760-acre lease area as recorded by the SCVWD is shown in Figure 2.6.B. The lease area and vicinity land use and vegetation are shown on the aerial photo in Figure 2.6.C. Figure 2.6.D. shows the lease area in relation to vicinity topography. Figure 2.6.E shows the park facilities and layout.

SCVWD Lease and Use. The lease area includes the Reservoir, adjacent shoreline and the area encompassing the dam and spillway. Coyote Lake Park is 796 acres consisting of these lease areas and a neighboring 36-acre SCCPRD parcel. The dam was constructed in 1936 and was one of the subject parcels in the 1969 lease agreement between SCVWD and SCCPRD.

The Reservoir collects runoff from the ridges to the east and west of the Coyote Creek drainage basin in addition to the flow of Coyote Creek. Coyote Reservoir releases water into Coyote Creek which flows north approximately 2 miles to Anderson Reservoir (also included in the SCVWD lease agreement). Four of the SCVWD reservoirs--Coyote, Anderson, Calero, and Almaden--are considered as supplementary drinking waters sources by the SCVWD to be blended with regular water supplies to supplement quantity or improve quality. If additional sources of drinking water were needed by the SCVWD, Coyote Reservoir water, which mixes with Anderson Reservoir water, would be conveyed to the Santa Teresa water treatment plant by existing pipelines.

Geography. Coyote Reservoir is located in a northwest-trending narrow valley in the Mt. Hamilton foothills just east of the City of Gilroy in the Santa Clara Valley and west of Timber Ridge. The prominent geologic feature of the western front range foothills is the northwest trending seismically active Calaveras fault which underlies the creek channel of Coyote Creek north of the Reservoir as well as underlying nearly the entire length of the Reservoir. Timber Ridge, to the east of the Reservoir, is the higher and steeper of the valley with a maximum elevation of the ridgetop at 2,400 feet. Neither Timber Ridge nor the more gradually sloped ridge on the west side of the Reservoir are drained by deeply incised streams but instead have numerous smaller drainages. Maximum elevation of the western ridge is 1,300 feet. At the northern end of the Reservoir, the valley becomes more a steep-sided canyon and the Reservoir narrows to less than 600 feet wide (see Figure 2.6.D).

Access. Coyote Reservoir is accessed from Highway 101 by the Leavesley Road exit to New Road and then Roop Road, a two-lane narrow road which climbs into the foothills east of the City of Gilroy (see Figure 2.6.A). Coyote Lake Road, a County-owned and maintained public road, intersects Roop Road and follows the western side of the reservoir from south to north, terminating at the dam.

FIGURE 2.6.A -- COYOTE RESERVOIR VICINITY

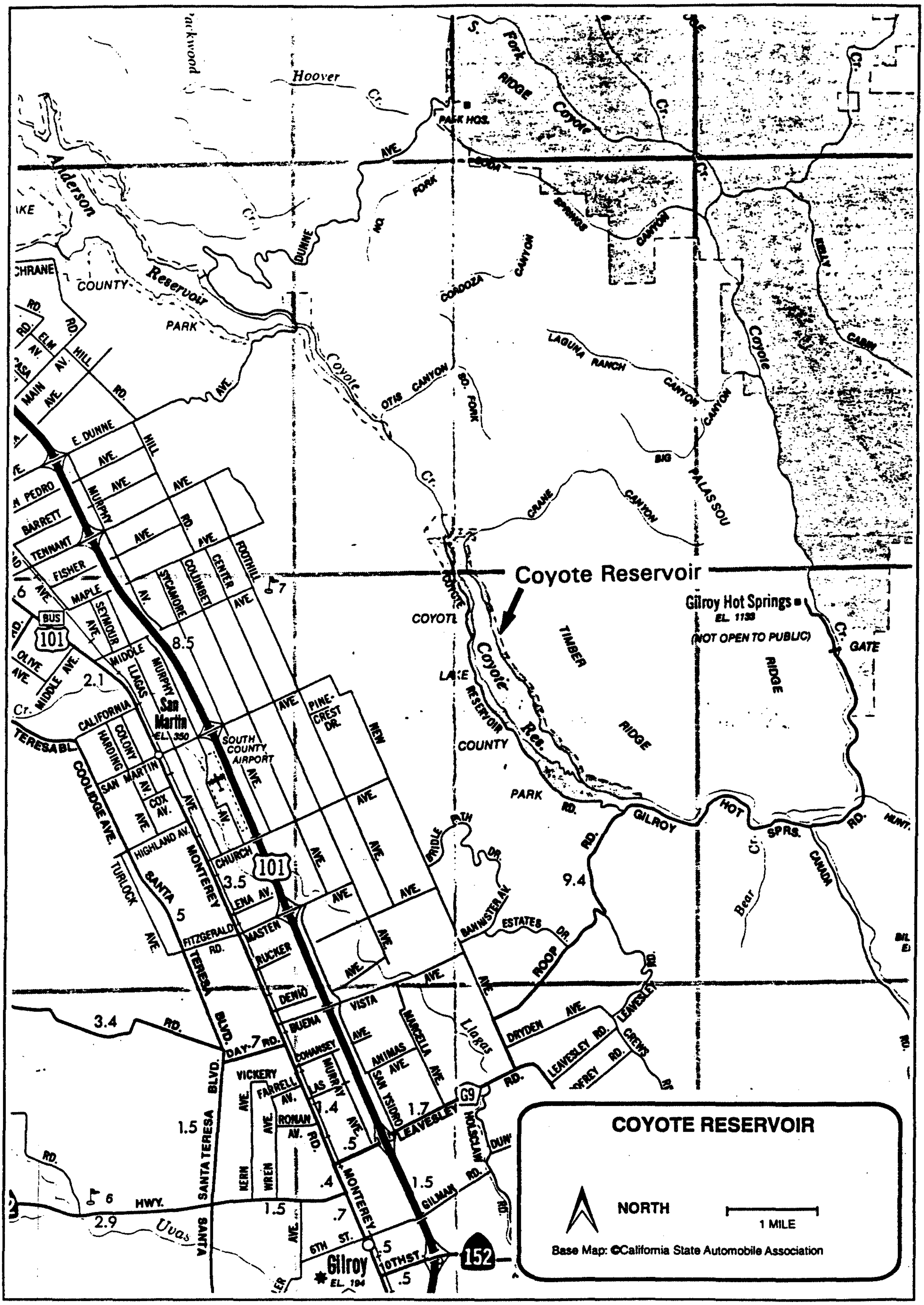
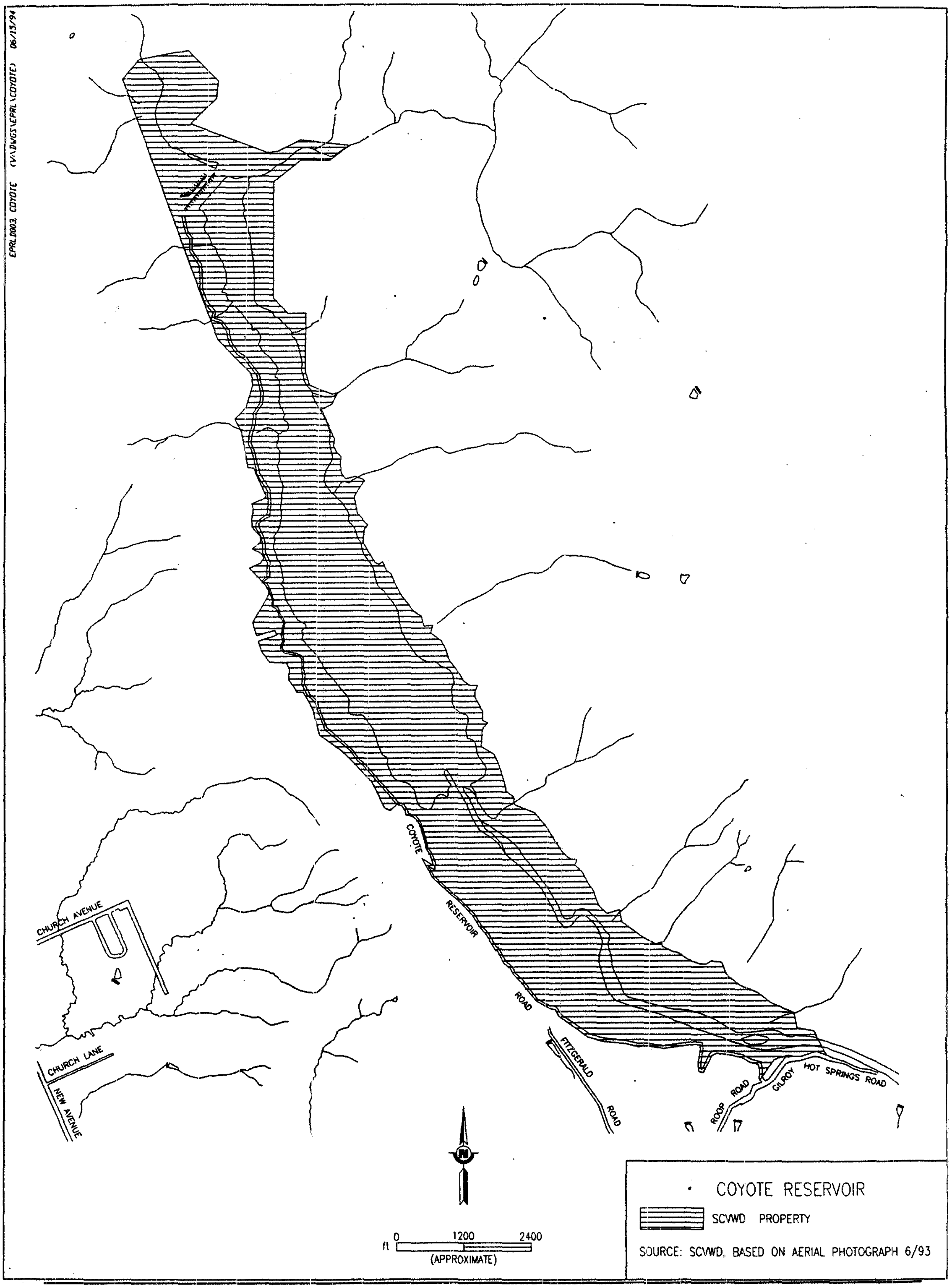


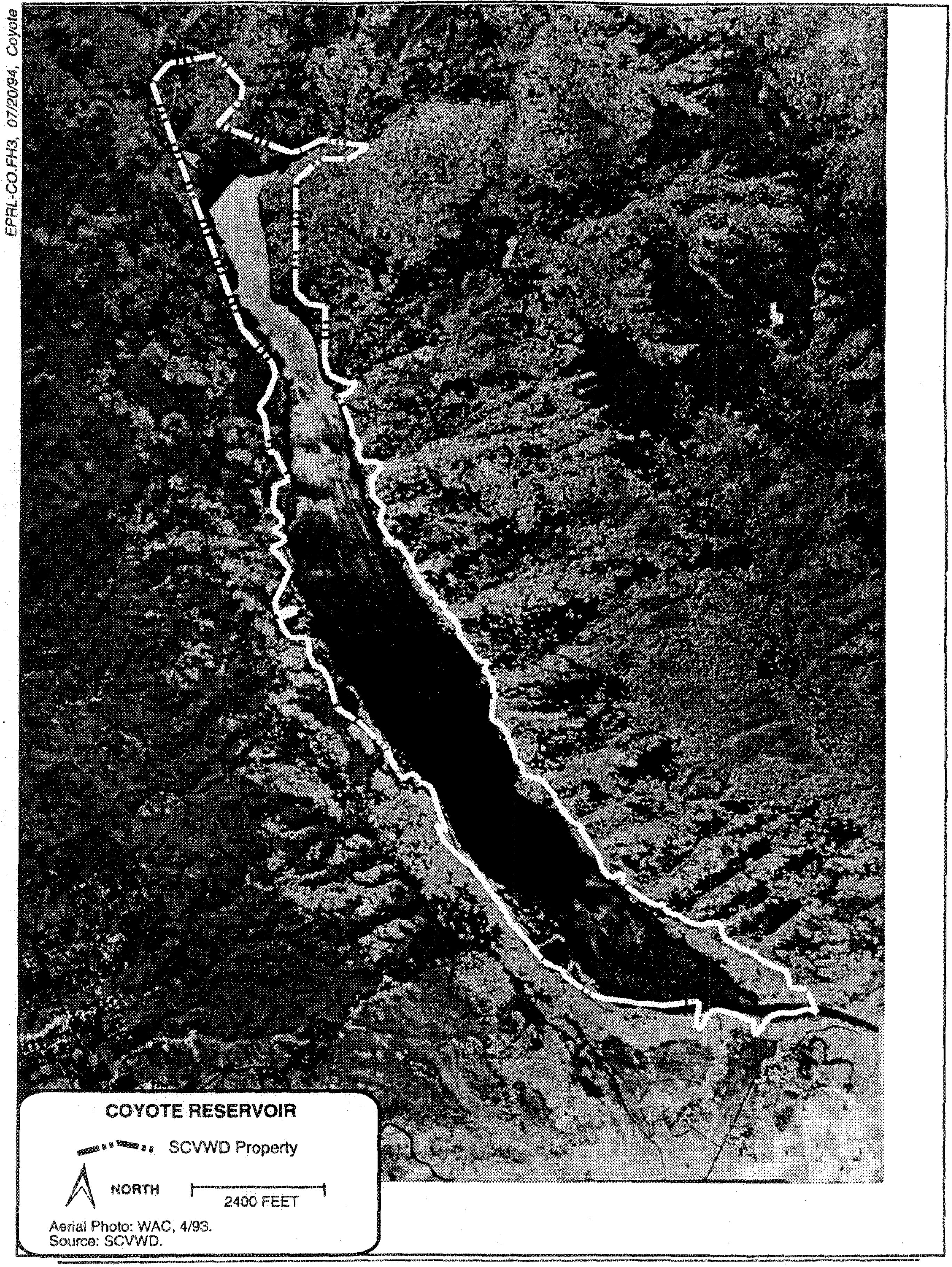
FIGURE 2.6.B -- COYOTE RESERVOIR LEASE AREA



SOURCE: SCVWD, BASED ON AERIAL PHOTOGRAPH 6/93

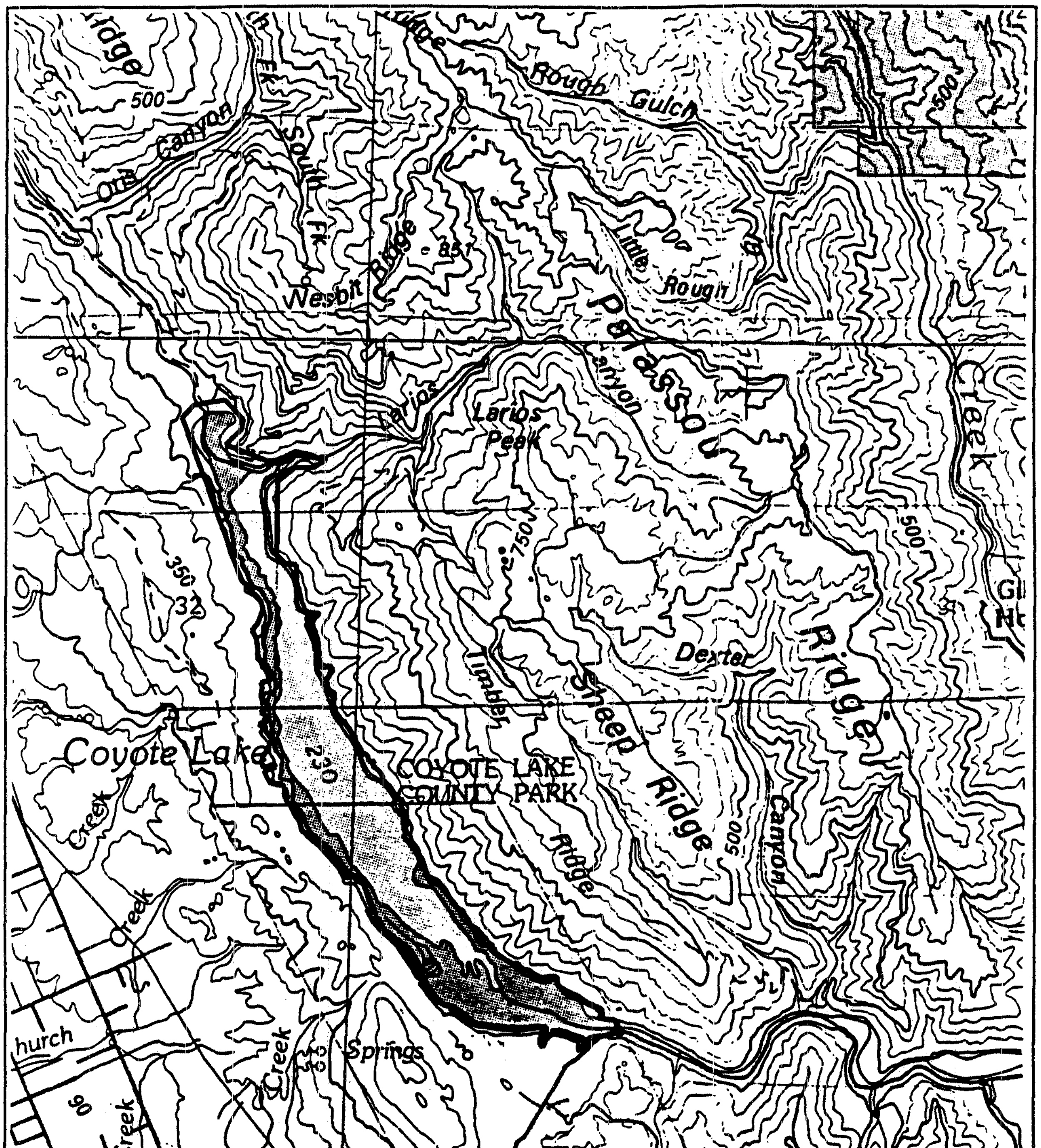
FIGURE 2.6.C -- COYOTE RESERVOIR AERIAL PHOTOGRAPH

EPRL-CO.FH3, 07/20/94, Coyote



Aerial Photo: WAC, 4/93.
Source: SCVWD.

FIGURE 2.6.D -- COYOTE RESERVOIR TOPOGRAPHY

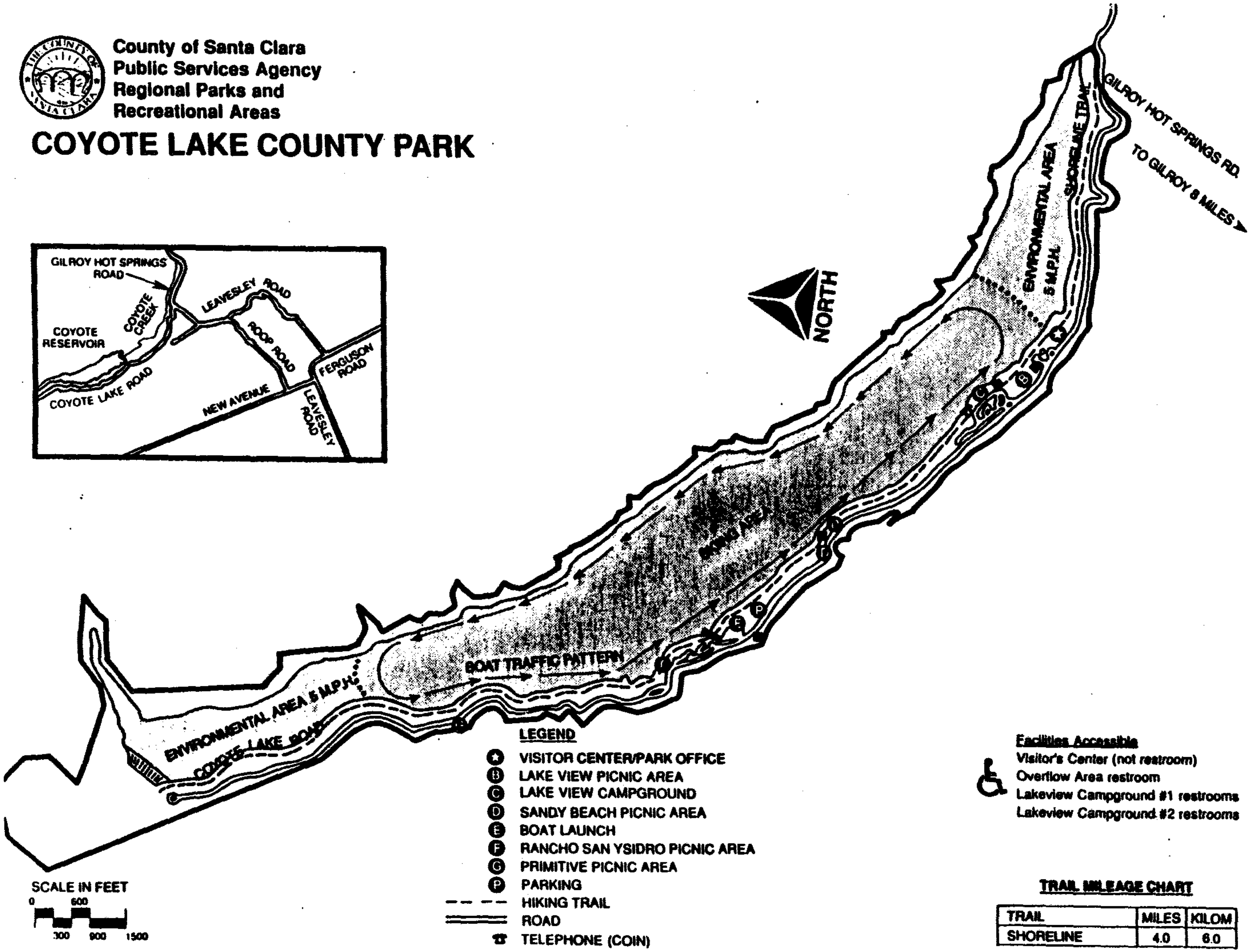


Base Map: USGS, San Jose Quad, 1978.
Source: SCVWD.

FIGURE 2.6.E -- COYOTE LAKE COUNTY PARK FACILITIES

County of Santa Clara
Public Services Agency
Regional Parks and
Recreational Areas

COYOTE LAKE COUNTY PARK



LEGEND

- ★ VISITOR CENTER/PARK OFFICE
- Ⓑ LAKE VIEW PICNIC AREA
- Ⓒ LAKE VIEW CAMPGROUND
- Ⓓ SANDY BEACH PICNIC AREA
- Ⓔ BOAT LAUNCH
- Ⓕ RANCHO SAN YSIDRO PICNIC AREA
- Ⓖ PRIMITIVE PICNIC AREA
- Ⓟ PARKING
- – – – HIKING TRAIL
- ═══ ROAD
- ☎ TELEPHONE (COIN)
- ■ RESTROOM

Facilities Accessible

♿
Visitor's Center (not restroom)
Overflow Area restroom
Lakeview Campground #1 restrooms
Lakeview Campground #2 restrooms

TRAIL MILEAGE CHART

TRAIL	MILES	KILOM
SHORELINE	4.0	6.0

Vegetation. Valley oak woodland is the dominant community on the hills on either side of the Reservoir and Douglas fir forests are dense in the canyons. On the more gently sloped west side of the Reservoir, the developed areas of the Park are oak woodland with scattered non-native landscape trees. Small areas of grassland, including serpentine grassland community, intergrade with the oak woodlands. Fresh water marsh community is found along the Coyote Creek Channel south of the Reservoir and along the lakeshore (The Habitat Restoration Group 1989).

Land Use. Land use adjacent to Coyote Reservoir is open space and rangelands.

Park Use. Due to the potential use of Reservoir water as an emergency water source, only limited body contact recreation is allowed in the Reservoir. Limited body contact prohibits swimming and wading but includes waterskiing, jet skiing and windsurfing. Under the Emergency Reservoir Operation Plan, limited contact recreation is allowed unless a Stage 2 water supply emergency is declared. Under these conditions, when domestic water sources cannot be adequately treated, all limited body contact water recreation would be halted.

Coyote Lake County Park is one of five County parks which allow camping and one of three reservoirs that allow motor boats, waterskiing and jet skiing. Formerly a fairly remote area from most residents of the County, the growth of Morgan Hill and Gilroy now puts the Park closer to larger population areas. Recreational activities are restricted to the western shoreline and the Reservoir. The eastern shoreline is a wildlife sanctuary and boats are prohibited from landing. The northern end of the western shore is also restricted and no pets or open fires are allowed.

Coyote Lake County Park is open 24-hours for camping and fishing. Day use, other than for nighttime fishing, is from 8:00 am to dusk. Entrance into the parking is controlled by a entrance kiosk and visitor center at the southern end of the Park. Recreational development is concentrated in a few locations on the southwestern shore of the Reservoir. Just north of the visitor center is the Lakeview Picnic Area and the Lakeview Campground (see Figure 2.6.E). There are 74 campsites each with picnic tables, most with fire rings and two restroom buildings with plumbing and septic systems. The campground is available on a first-come first-serve basis year-round. During the summer season when Reservoir levels are high, the campground is full every weekend. Demand for camping is closely tied to the water level of the Reservoir; during the drought in the late 1980's campground use was very low.

Additional day use areas are further north along the western shore. *The* ~~at~~ Sandy Beach *Day Use Area* (a former swimming beach) *with parking for approximately 30 vehicles, has full restroom, drinking water and 10 picnic tables.* *T*~~t~~he boat launch area *has approximately 130 parkins spaces which can accomodate 65 vehicles with boat trailers. The boat launch area also has full restrooms, drinking water and approximately 5 picnic tables. The* San Ysidro Picnic Area *with parking for approximately 15 cars is a short distance from the restrooms* *available at the boat launch. There area 6 picnic tables at San Ysidro but no available drinking water. In addition, there area* several pullouts with no facilities further north along the shoreline. ~~The boat launch area has approximately 130 parking spaces which can accommodate 65 boats and trailers.~~

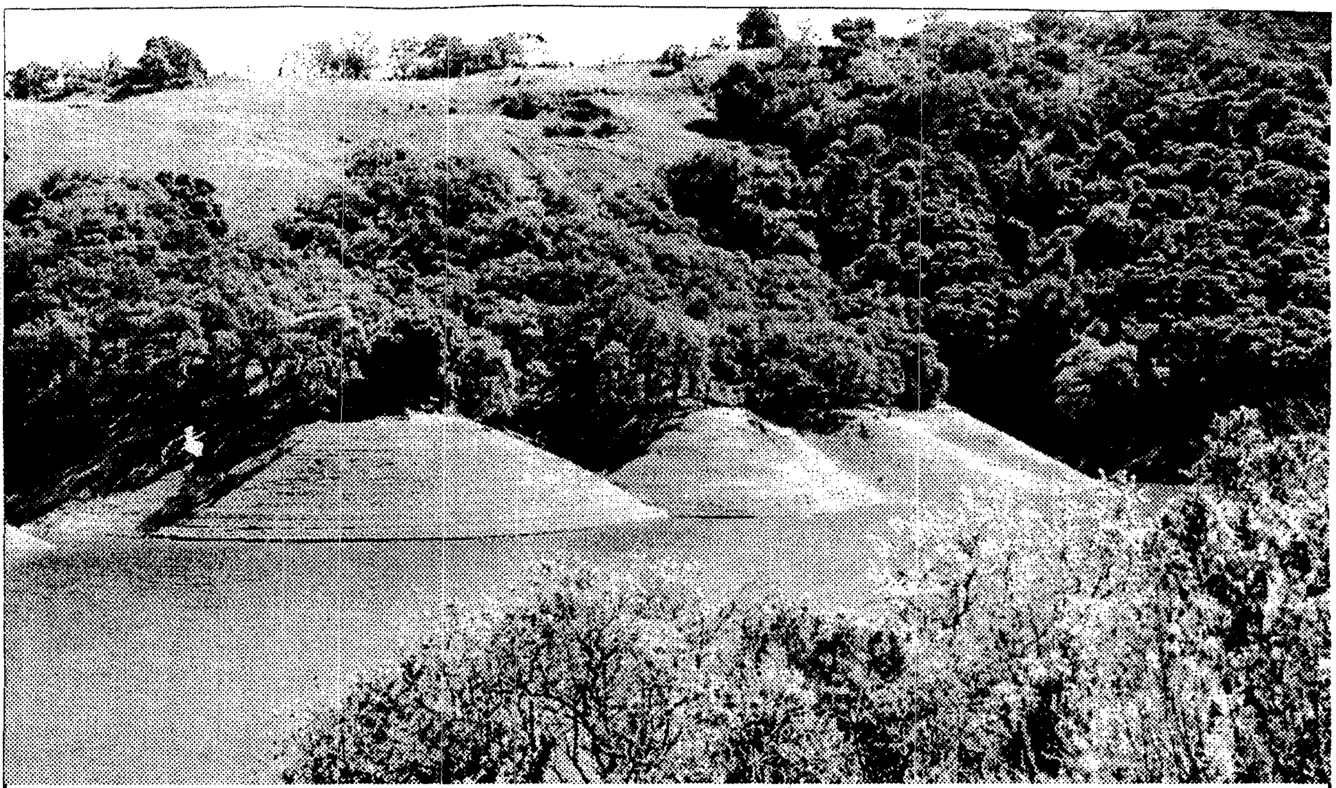
For public safety, the number of boats on the reservoir at one time is limited based on the surface area of the Reservoir on the day in question. In June, 1994, the boating limit was set at 74 boats, including jet skis and non-power boats. Boat launching is on a non-reservation basis as well. Boat owners waiting to launch line up in the parking area of the boat launch. On Sundays during the summer season, reservoir boat capacity is reached by 10:00 am. Rangers patrol the park by boat, vehicle and bicycle.

Park staff counted an estimated 18,105 vehicles and 63,377 visitors entering the Park during the first six months of fiscal year 1993-1994 (July 1 to December 31, 1993). Also estimated for the first half of the fiscal year were the number of users participating in each of the following recreation activities:

camping	10,681
(campsites occupied)	3,380
picnicking	5,716
power boats	3,045
fishing	1,274
hiking	337
jet skiing	2,262
sailing	139

2.7. GUADALUPE RESERVOIR

EPRL-PHO.PM4, 6/3/94, P11



Guadalupe Reservoir

View from Hicks Road of High Water Line
on Northeast Shore Guadalupe Reservoir

Capacity: 3,740 acre feet
Average Surface Area: 79 acres
Completed: 1935
Dam Height: 129 feet high, 520,000 cubic yards of material.
Lease History: 1969 lease agreement.
Lease Area: 107 acres.
Park Area: 107 acres.
Recreational Uses: Fishing, picnicking.

2.7. GUADALUPE RESERVOIR

Location and General Description. Guadalupe Reservoir is located on the southern boundary of Almaden Quicksilver County Park on Hicks Road in unincorporated central Santa Clara County south of the City of San Jose (see Figure 2.7.A). The lease area as recorded by the SCVWD is shown in Figure 2.7.B. The lease area and vicinity land use and vegetation are shown on the aerial photo in Figure 2.7.C. Figure 2.7.D. shows the lease area in relation to vicinity topography.

SCVWD Lease and Use. The 107-acre lease area is comprised of the 79-acre Reservoir, 28 acres of adjacent shoreline (principally on the north side of Hicks Road), the dam, spillway and lands directly downstream. The lease area is coequal with the SCCPRD park unit. The principal purpose of Guadalupe Reservoir is to provide staged releases of impounded water to the Los Alamitos Percolation Pond System downstream on the Guadalupe Creek. The SCVWD operates this reservoir for water conservation purposes only. However, due to the presence of this reservoir in the watershed, there may be some incidental flood control benefits.

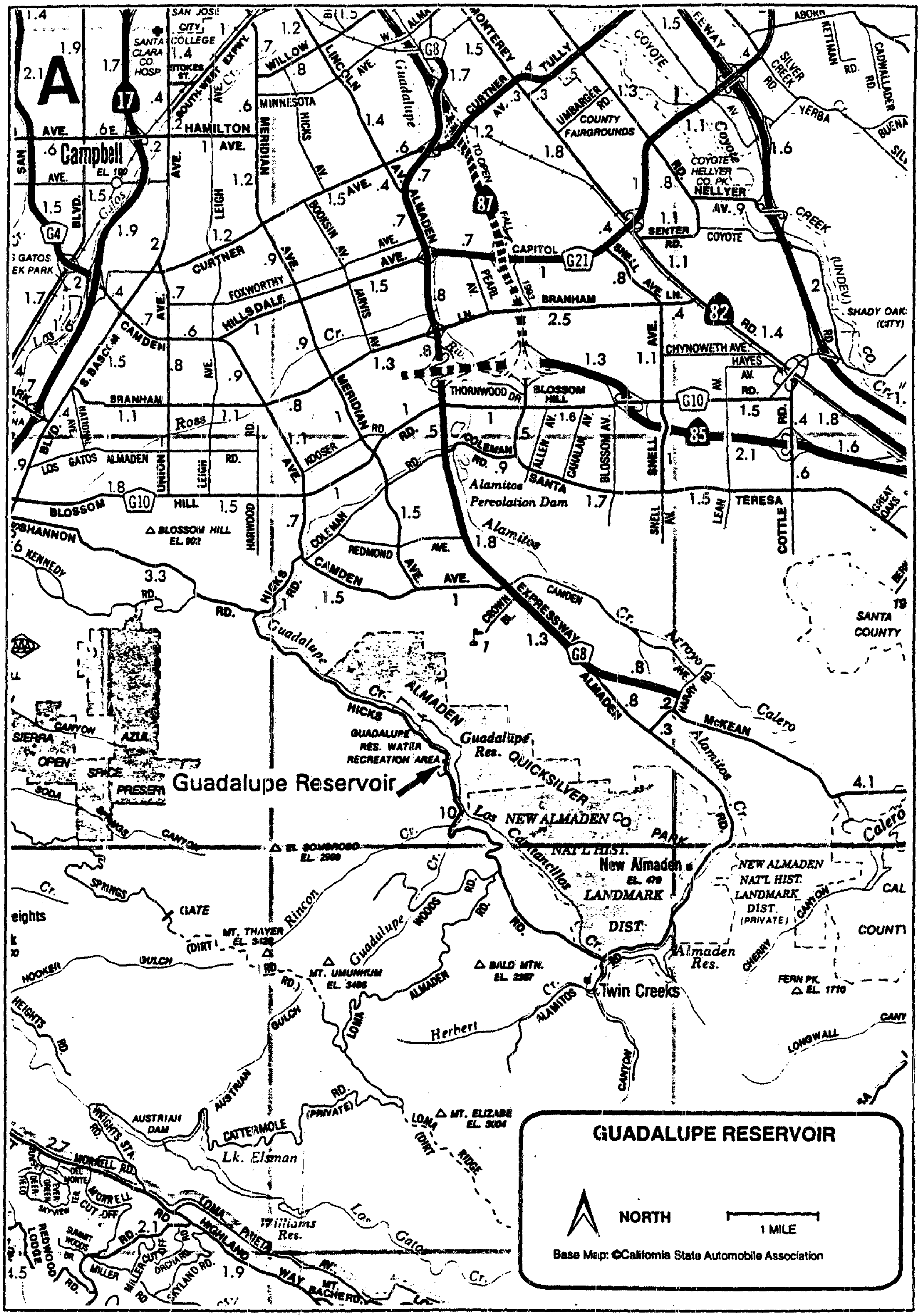
Geography. Guadalupe Reservoir impounds the channel of Guadalupe Creek in a narrow northwest trending valley. The valley is in the northern foothills of the Sierra Azul, a massive ridge complex in the northern Santa Cruz Mountains. At the south end of the Reservoir, Los Capitancillos Creek from the west and Rincon Creek from the east join Guadalupe Creek. The ridge north of the Reservoir, rising to 849 feet, is part of Almaden Quicksilver County Park and was the site of the Enriquita Mine and Providencia Mine, former cinnabar (mercuric sulphide) mines (see Figure 2.7.D). Numerous unnamed intermittent streams drain from this ridge into the Reservoir. The most unique landscape feature at the Reservoir are the rounded finger ridges formed by the incising action of these drainages.

Access. Access to Guadalupe Reservoir is from the Camden Avenue exit of Highway 17 or the Camden Avenue exit of the Almaden Expressway. Camden Avenue intersects Hicks Road. Guadalupe Reservoir can also be reached from Almaden Reservoir on Alamitos Road by turning north onto Hicks Road at the west end of Almaden Reservoir (see Figure 2.7.A).

Vegetation. The north side of the Reservoir is a mix of grassland intergraded with chaparral and scattered oaks. Fresh water marsh community is found at the southern end where Guadalupe Creek feeds into the Reservoir. The southern slopes along Hicks Road are principally chaparral with pockets of oak woodland. Scattered eucalyptus trees are along the roadside.

Land Use. The Reservoir is bordered on the north by Almaden Quicksilver County Park, a large expanse of open space. Adjacent to the west are undeveloped lands that are part of the Guadalupe Landfill property. On the south side of Hicks Road, land use is predominantly very low density rural residential.

FIGURE 2.7.A -- GUADALUPE RESERVOIR VICINITY



Base Map: ©California State Automobile Association

FIGURE 2.7.B -- GUADALUPE RESERVOIR LEASE AREA

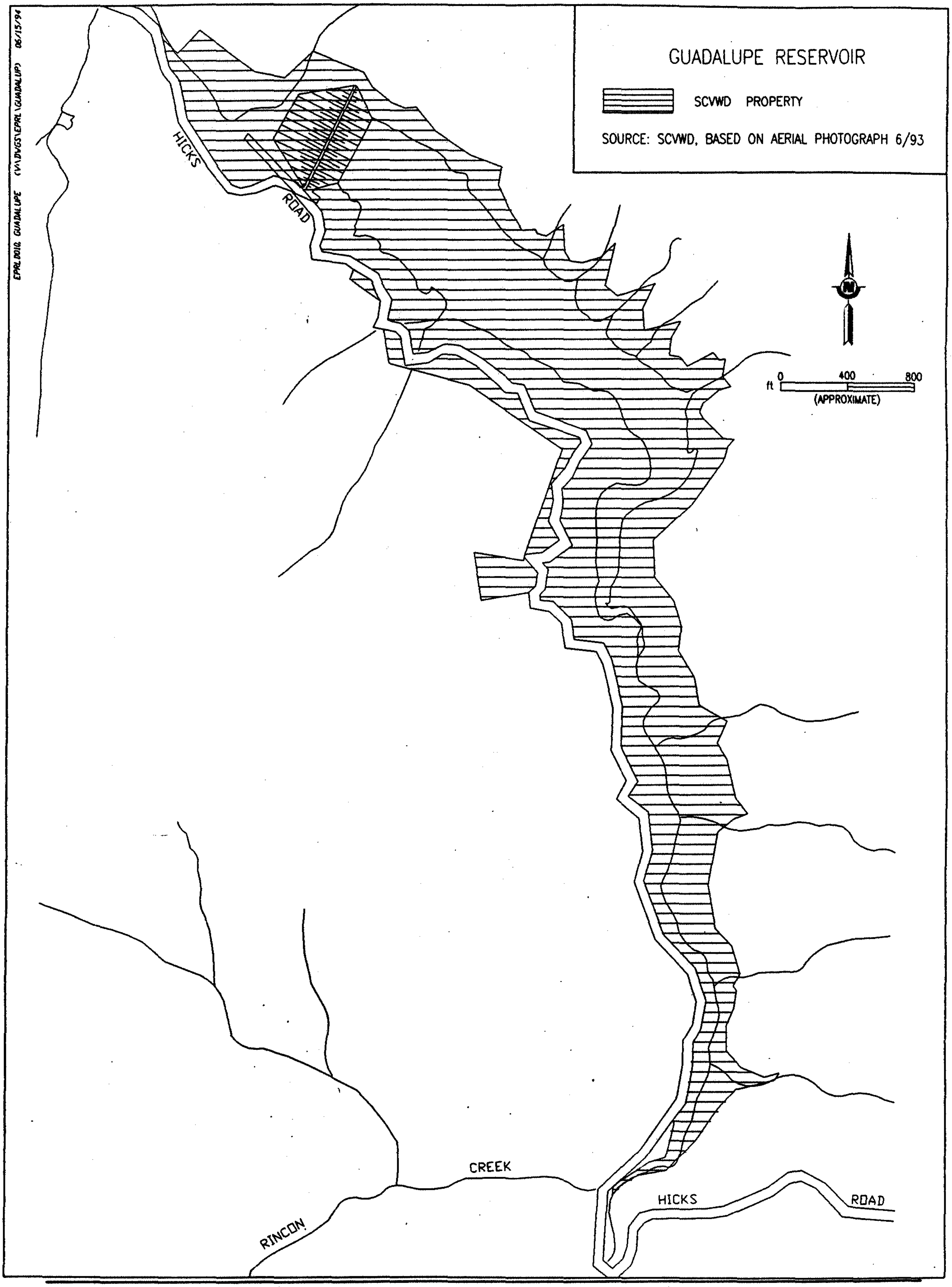
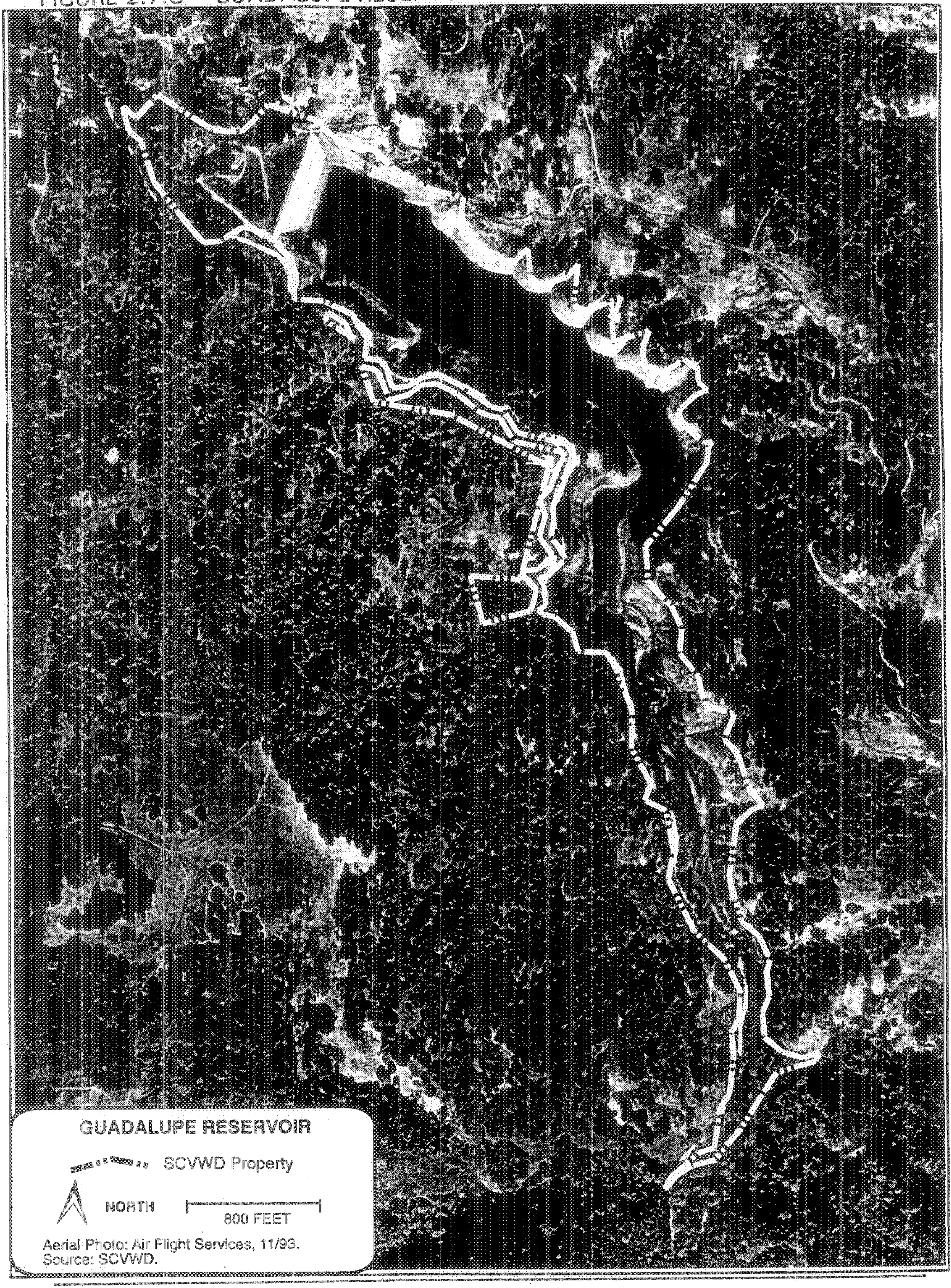

EPRL D010, GUADALUPE (V:\DWGS\EPRL\GUADALUP) 06/15/94
GUADALUPE RESERVOIR
▤ SCVWD PROPERTY
SOURCE: SCVWD, BASED ON AERIAL PHOTOGRAPH 6/93
N
ft 0 400 800
(APPROXIMATE)
HICKS ROAD
CREEK
RINCON
HICKS ROAD

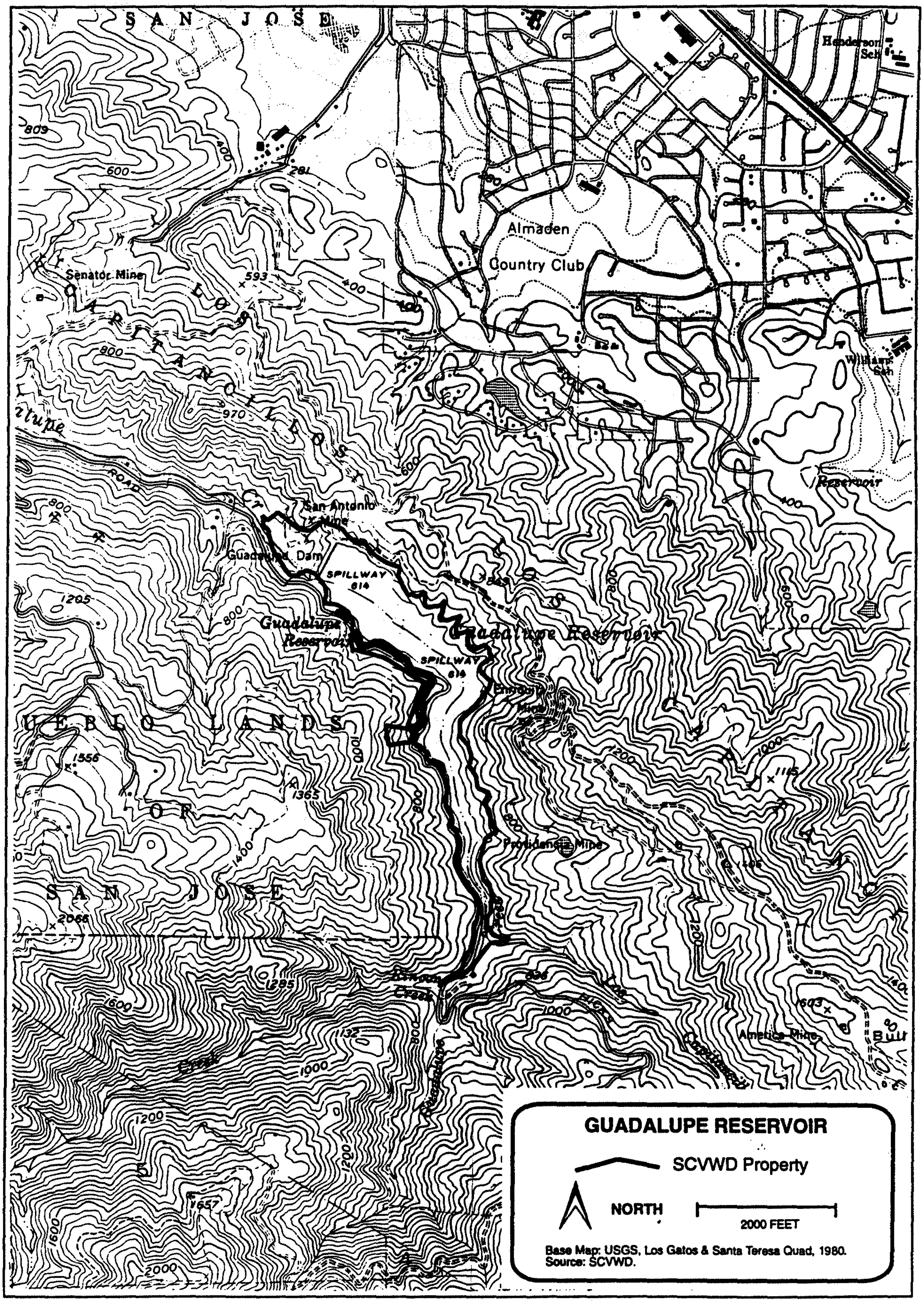
FIGURE 2.7.C -- GUADALUPE RESERVOIR AERIAL PHOTOGRAPH



Aerial Photo: Air Flight Services, 11/93.
Source: SCVWD.

EPRL-GU.FH3, 07/20/94, Guadalupe

FIGURE 2.7.D -- GUADALUPE RESERVOIR TOPOGRAPHY



Base Map: USGS, Los Gatos & Santa Teresa Quad, 1980.
Source: SCVWD.

History. Almaden Quicksilver County Park includes a region that once contained some of the most productive cinnabar (mercuric sulfide) mines in the world. Portions of Almaden Quicksilver County Park are currently closed to public access due to the presence of mercury compounds in mining wastes and park soils. Fish sampled from creeks and reservoirs with mercuric sulphide-laden sediments have been found to contain levels of methyl mercury in tissue which exceeds standards set by the Food and Drug Administration.

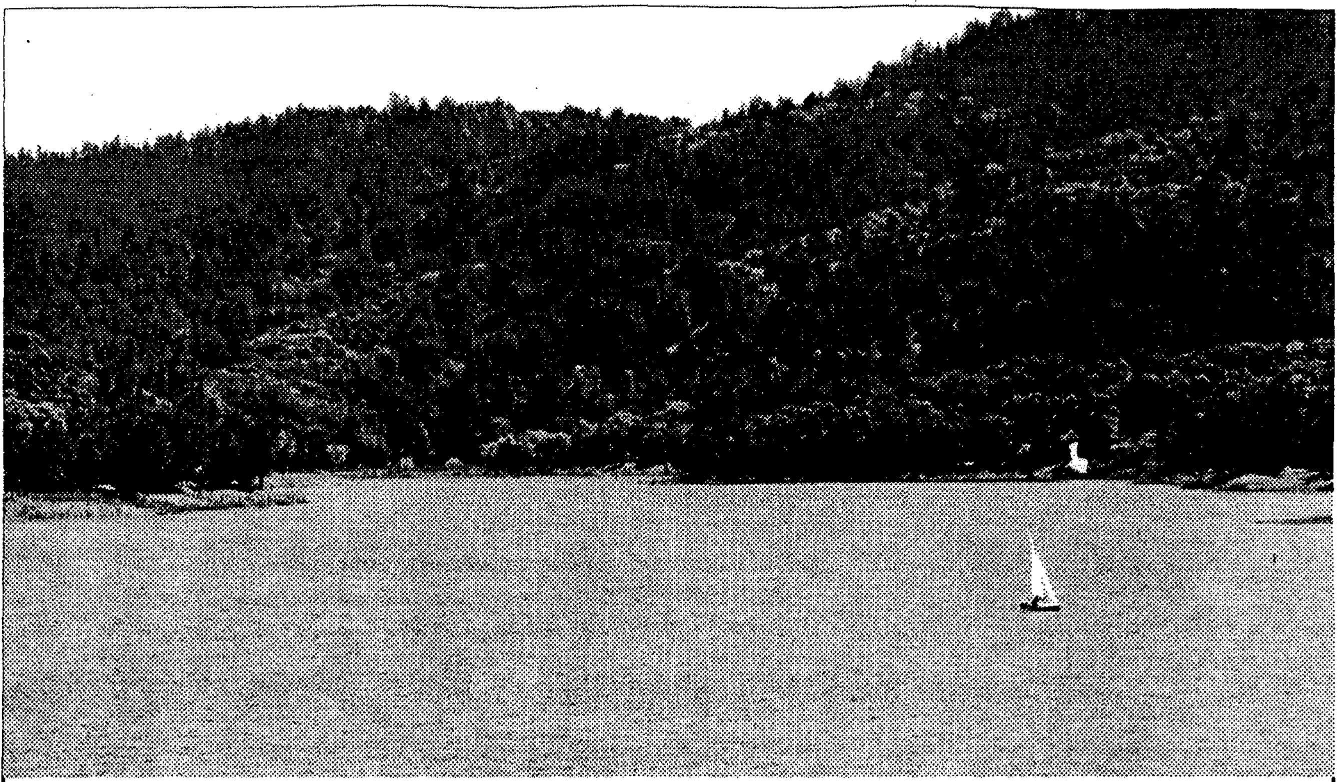
Park Use. Recreational activities at Guadalupe Reservoir are limited to picnicking and fishing. Though fishing is allowed at Guadalupe Reservoir, in response to the potential public health hazard, the SCVWD has posted the area warning against consumption of Almaden Reservoir fish. There are three warning signs posted at the lease area but no sign is posted in the vicinity of the dam. Two signs are posted upstream of the main reservoir on either side of an area marked "No Trespassing". The third sign is on Hicks Road south of the dam at a parking pulloff that could accommodate approximately 15 cars.

No swimming, boating or any form of body contact recreation besides fishing is allowed at ~~Almaden~~ *Guadalupe* Reservoir. The SCCPRD has not actively encouraged public recreation at ~~Almaden~~ *Guadalupe* Reservoir due to the issue of contamination of sediments and fish. Guadalupe Reservoir is open for day use only. There is no entrance station to the Reservoir, no fees are collected and no records of daily visitation are kept. There are no restroom facilities nor parking areas provided.

Visitors access to the Reservoir by parking in turnouts along Alamitos Road which cannot be secured at night. Patrol of Guadalupe Reservoir is by a ranger assigned to Calero Reservoir. The reservoir is usually patrolled once per day during the winter and up to three times per day during spring and summer months (H. Giretti, SCCPRD). SCCPRD has posted "No Swimming" signs at some of the more obvious pulloffs from Hicks Road. "No Boating" signs are not posted though boating is not allowed. No attendance data is kept for Guadalupe Reservoir.

2.8. LEXINGTON RESERVOIR

EPRL-PHO.PM4, 6/3/94, P5



Lexington Reservoir

View South from Lexington Dam
Lexington County Park and Reservoir

Capacity: 19,834 acre feet
Average Surface Area: 404 acres
Completed: 1952
Dam Height: 195 feet high, 2,124,000 cubic yards of material.
Lease History: 1969 lease agreement.
Lease Area: 844 acres.
Park Area: 1,001 acres.
Recreational Uses: Fishing, non-motorized or electric motor boating, picnicking, hiking.

2.8. LEXINGTON RESERVOIR

Location and General Description. Lexington Reservoir is located adjacent to Highway 17 in unincorporated western Santa Clara County approximately 1 mile south of the Town of Los Gatos (see Figure 2.8.A). The lease area as recorded by the SCVWD is shown in Figure 2.8.B. The lease area and vicinity land use and vegetation are shown on the aerial photo in Figure 2.8.C. Figure 2.8.D. shows the lease area in relation to vicinity topography. Figure 2.8.E shows the park facilities and layout.

SCVWD Lease and Use. The SCVWD lease area consists:

- the 404-acre Reservoir including a 40-acre portion on the west side of Highway 17 that forms the Lyndon Canyon slough;
- approximately 300 acres of land on the slope northeast of the Reservoir and adjoining the Saint Joseph's Hill Open Space Preserve;
- lands adjacent to the reservoir and sloughs to 15 feet above the high water level.

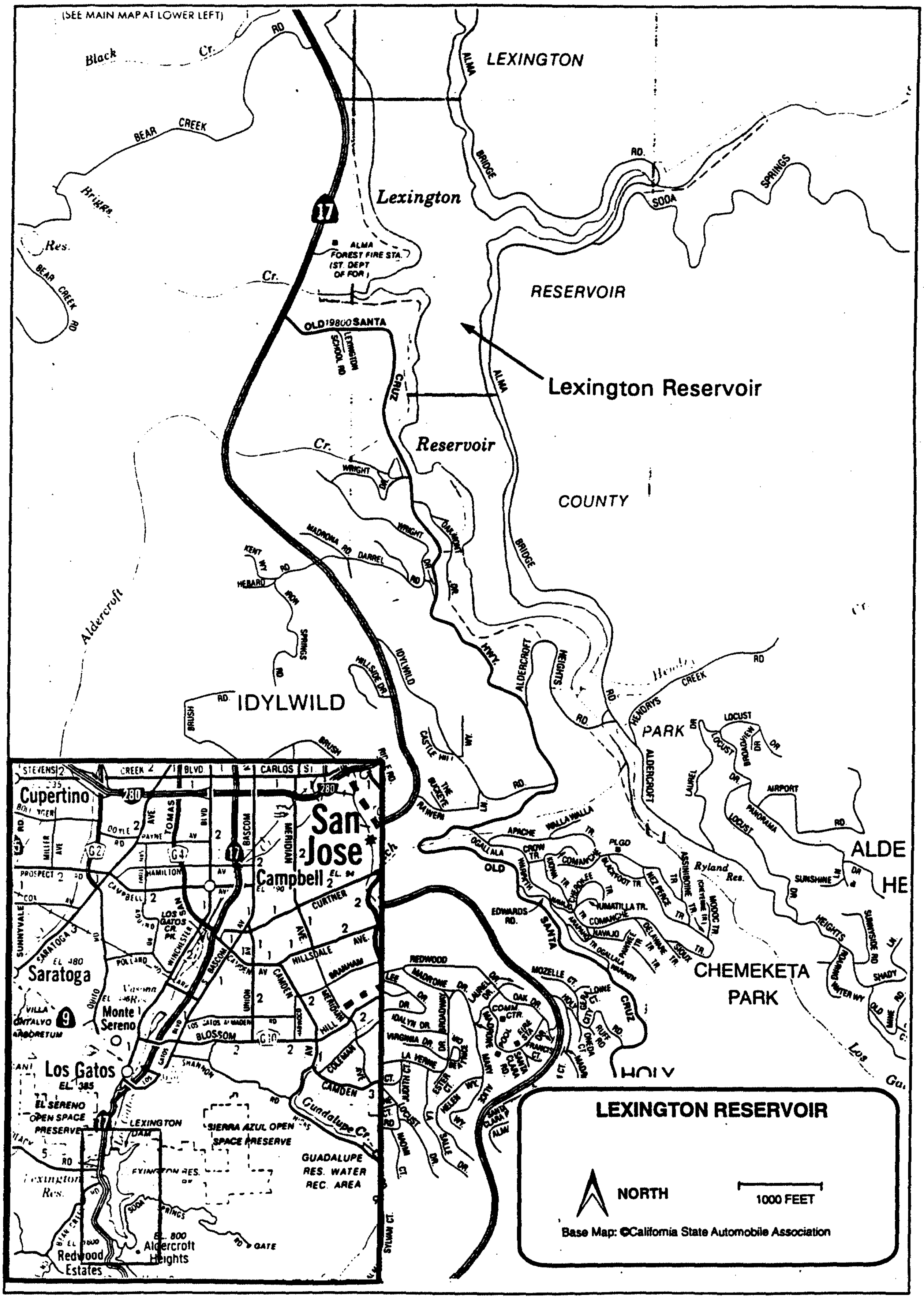
Lexington Reservoir County Park includes an additional 157 acres, including some acreage west of Lyndon Canyon slough, that have been purchased by SCCPRD. The total area of the park is 1001 acres.

The primary purpose of the Lexington Reservoir is to store water for scheduled releases to replenish groundwater at recharge facilities further downstream on Los Gatos Creek. A secondary use of the Reservoir is the provision of public recreation. The Reservoir and adjacent lease lands were included in the original 1969 SCVWD/SCCPRD lease.

As of June 1994, the Reservoir water level was being lowered to prepare for scheduled construction of a Highway 17/Black Road interchange. The configuration of the Reservoir basin may be altered to allow fill to be placed on the western side of the Reservoir to accommodate a frontage road and overpasses. The eastern side of the Reservoir may be excavated to maintain the required acre-foot capacity of Lexington Reservoir. Impacts associated with the Highway 17 improvement project were assessed under CEQA prior to approval of the improvements project.

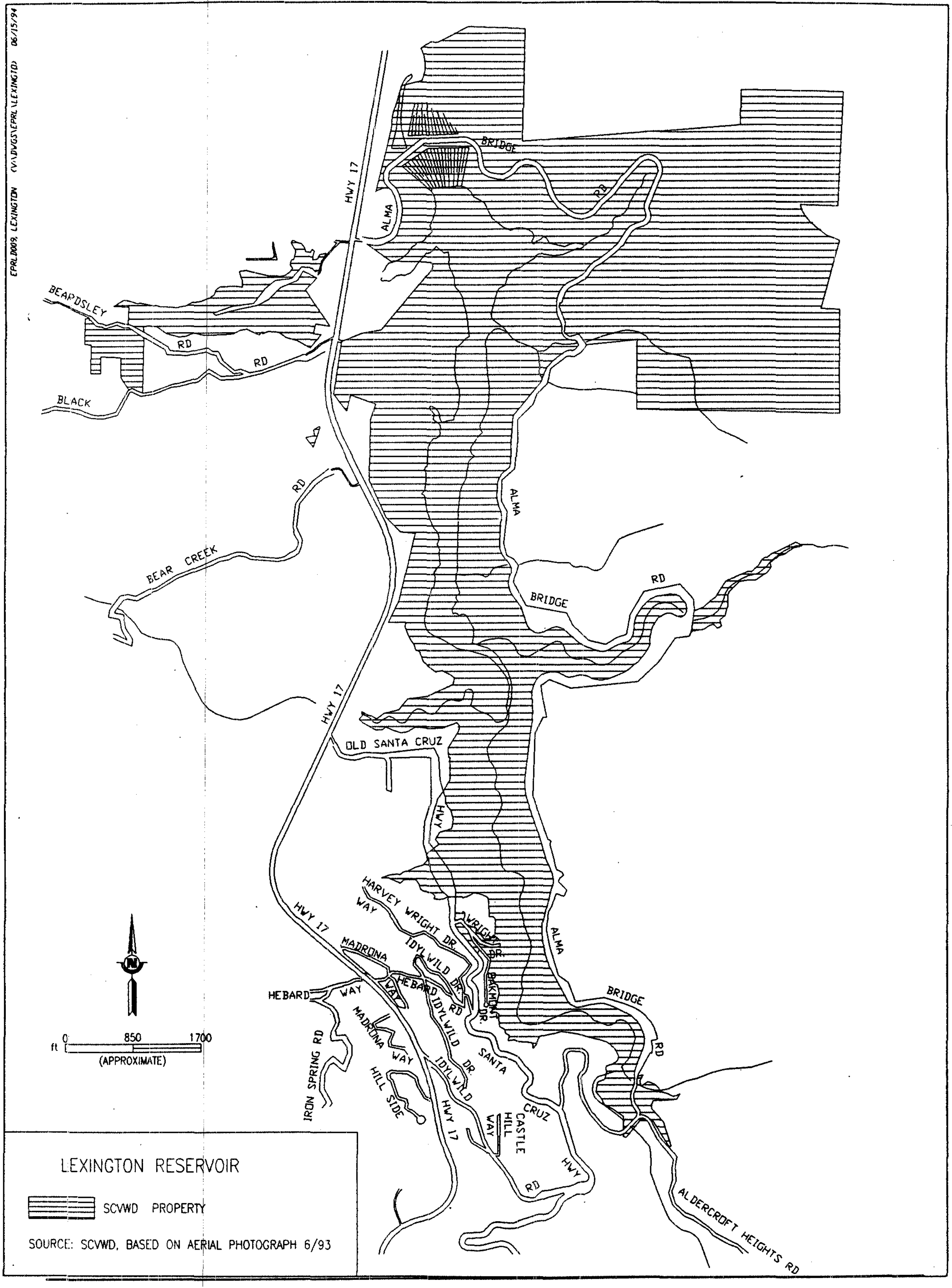
Geography. Lexington Dam ~~floods~~ *discharges to* the north/south Los Gatos Creek channel at the base of Sierra Azul, a well-defined mountain block at the northern edge of the Santa Cruz Mountains in the western end of the Santa Clara Valley. Lexington Reservoir is roughly 2.5 miles long and 3,000 feet wide at the northern end near the dam. The Reservoir also includes several deep sloughs where reservoir waters have backed up into the creek channels of Soda Springs Canyon Creek, Aldercroft Creek and Briggs Creek.

FIGURE 2.8.A -- LEXINGTON RESERVOIR VICINITY



Base Map: ©California State Automobile Association

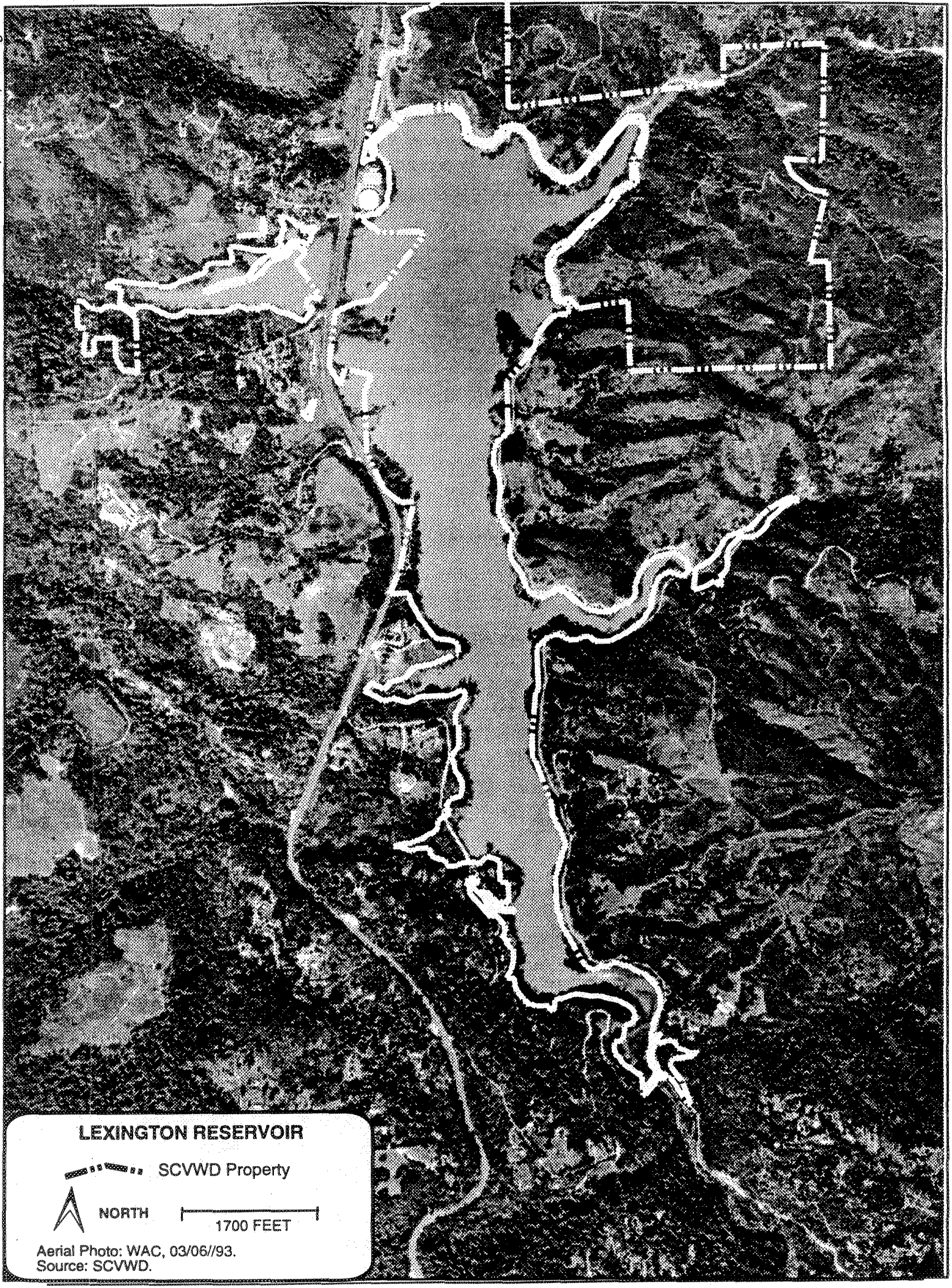
FIGURE 2.8.B -- LEXINGTON RESERVOIR LEASE AREA



SOURCE: SCVWD, BASED ON AERIAL PHOTOGRAPH 6/93

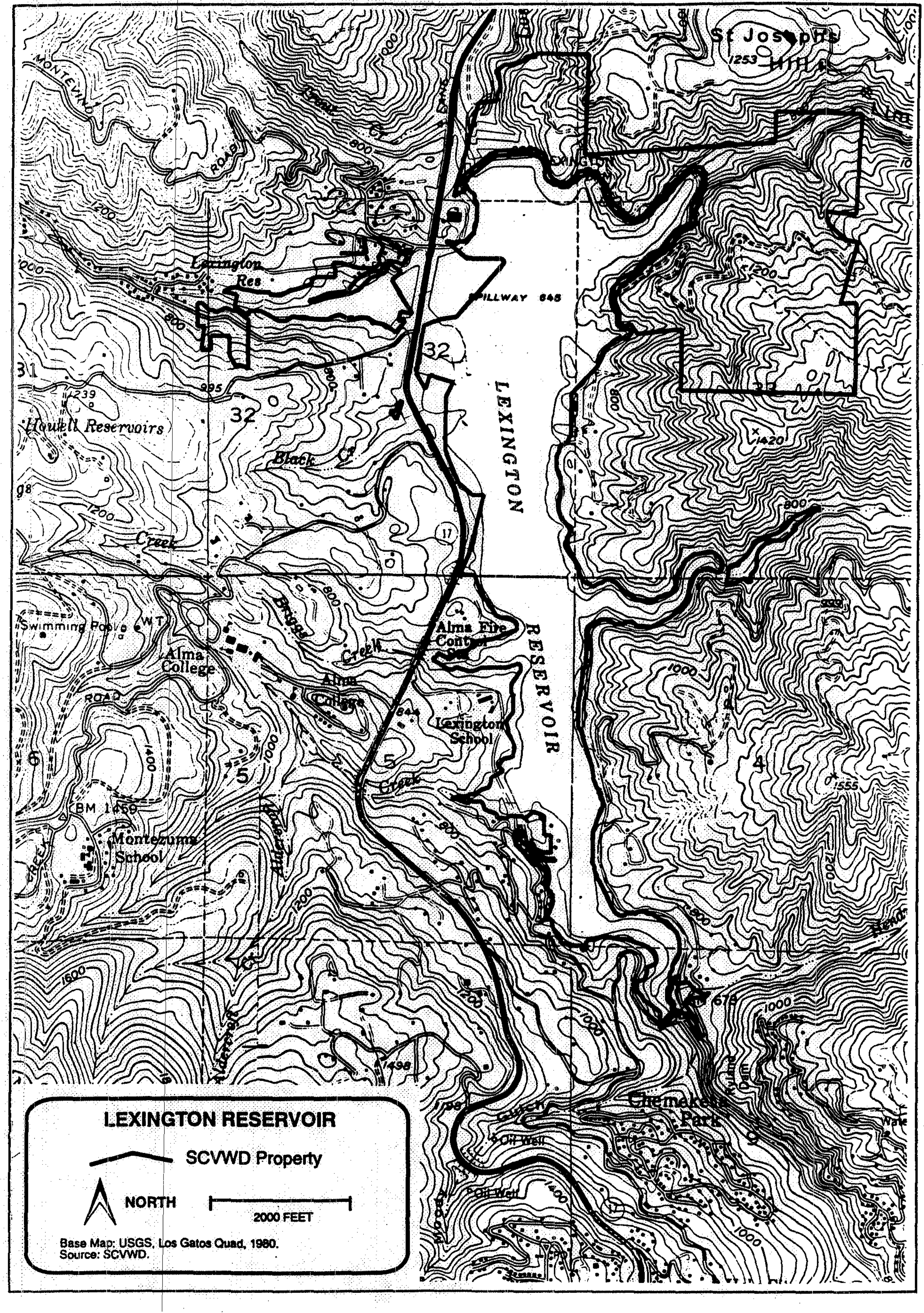
FIGURE 2.8.C -- LEXINGTON RESERVOIR AERIAL PHOTOGRAPH

EPRL-LE.FH3, 06/10/94, Lexington



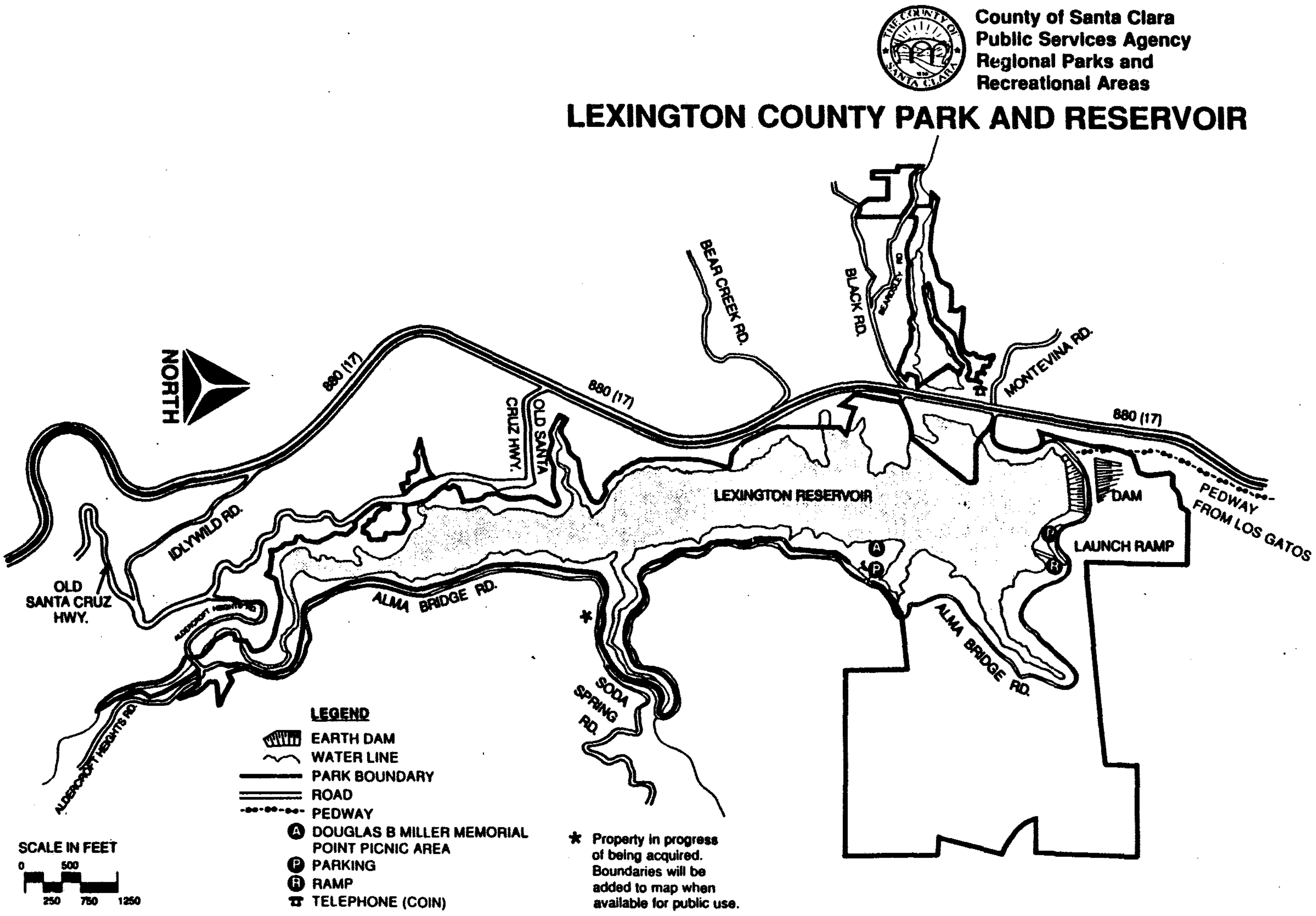
Aerial Photo: WAC, 03/06//93.
Source: SCVWD.

FIGURE 2.8.D -- LEXINGTON RESERVOIR TOPOGRAPHY



Base Map: USGS, Los Gatos Quad, 1980.
Source: SCVWD.

FIGURE 2.8.E -- LEXINGTON RESERVOIR COUNTY PARK FACILITIES



The Reservoir impounds Los Gatos Creek and numerous other drainages within the surrounding watershed. Los Gatos Creek enters the south end of the Reservoir while Soda Springs Creek drains into the Reservoir from the east, Aldercroft Creek, Black Creek and Briggs Creek from the west and Moody Gulch and Hendrys Creek from the south. The principal geologic feature of the Lexington Reservoir vicinity is the San Andreas fault zone which trends northwest/southeast through the extreme southern end of the Reservoir.

Access. The Reservoir is accessed by turning onto Alma Bridge Road from Highway 17. County roads nearly circle the Reservoir with the exception of a stretch of Highway 17 that completed the northwestern portion of the perimeter road network. From Highway 17, Alma Bridge Road crosses Lexington dam and follows the eastern side of the Reservoir where, at the southern end of the Reservoir, Alma Bridge Road and Old Santa Cruz Highway are joined by a segment of Aldercroft Heights Road. Old Santa Cruz Highway is a north/south two lane road that intersects Highway 17 approximately halfway up the length of the Reservoir (see Figure 2.8.A).

Access to the Reservoir is currently from the uncontrolled left hand turn on Highway 17, across the northbound lanes and onto Alma Bridge Road. Highway improvements scheduled for Fall 1994 will construct an interchange at Black Road which would eliminate the left hand turn into the Park across Highway 17.

Vegetation. The southern end of the lease area is well-developed riparian and marsh communities within the Los Gatos Creek channel. On the eastern side of the Reservoir, north-facing slopes are primarily bay, madrone, tanoak, live oak and big-leaved maple while south-facing slopes are primarily chaparral. Non-native grassland and eucalyptus trees are found between the Reservoir and Highway 17 in the northwestern section of the lease area. Eucalyptus trees are also common on the eastern side of the Reservoir as are Scottish and French broom. Outside of the lease area on the southwestern portion of the Reservoir, the rural residential neighborhood is in a redwood/douglas fir community.

Land Use. Lexington Reservoir County Park is bordered to the north and northeast by public lands belonging to the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District. Lands to the southeast and southwest are rural residential communities. The northwestern portion of the Reservoir is adjacent to Highway 17.

Park Use. Recreational activities at Lexington Reservoir County Park include non-power or electric motor boating, picnicking, fishing, bicycling, jogging and hiking. No gasoline-powered boats, swimming or wading are permitted. The park is open daily, year-round from 8 a.m. until dusk. No fees are collected for daily use of the park. Access to the Park is from numerous pulloffs and parking areas on a public road so no day use fee can be collected. A $3.00 fee is collected per boat launched. Boat fees are collected by self-registration with an "iron ranger" at the boat launch area. Regular boaters can purchase an annual pass for a reduced rate. Parking near the launch ramp can accommodate approximately 25 cars. Chemical toilets, park regulation signs and a telephone are provided. No potable water is available at the Park.

The Douglas B. Miller Memorial Picnic Area is south of the boat launch in a grove of mature oak trees. There are parking spaces for approximately 35 vehicles, 12 picnic tables and grills and chemical toilets. Both the boat launch parking lot and the picnic area parking lot are secured by a locked gate after park hours (see Figure 2.8.E).

Other areas along the eastern side of the Reservoir are accessed by trails leading downslope from parking pulloffs along Alma Bridge Road. At the northern end, parking is available on both sides of the dam crest. There is no public access to the Reservoir from Aldercroft Heights Road. Park staff indicate that available parking is sufficient for the level of visitation (J. Mohring, SCCPRD).

Lexington Reservoir County Park is a vital connection in a multi-agency trail network. Los Gatos Creek Trail, beginning in San Jose and passing through Campbell and Los Gatos, ends at Lexington. Lexington has trail connections to the St. Joseph Hills Open Space Preserve and the Sierra Azul Open Space Preserve on the eastern side of the Reservoir. In the future, it is anticipated that Lexington Reservoir County Park will have a trail connection to Sanborn Skyline County Park to the west. Trails leading into the open space preserves are unpaved and popular with hikers, runners, bicyclists and equestrians connecting from Los Gatos Creek Trail or starting at Lexington Reservoir.

Daily patrols are conducted by Park rangers. Alma Bridge Road is now signed for no parking after sunset which has greatly reduced the amount of vandalism at the Park. Patrol is by vehicle and a patrol boat.

Two local clubs, the University of Santa Clara Rowing Team and the Los Gatos Rowing Club, practice on Lexington Reservoir. Regattas are held every spring. On-site storage for boats and equipment was shared by the two rowing teams until a recent fire burned the storage structure and all of the contents were lost.

The boat club structure may be rebuilt on the grassy point north of the Douglas B. Miller Memorial Picnic Area. The Los Gatos Boat Club intends to submit plans for a new structure, access road and other improvements to the SCCPRD and seeks to negotiate a lease agreement with the Department based on the proposed uses of the site. As the project would be within the lease area, SCVWD permit approval would also required. Review and/or permit approval may also be sought from the County Building Department, the US Army Corps of Engineers, the California Department of Fish and Game, the County Department of Environmental Health, the County Fire Marshall and the County Department of Transportation. Plans to rebuild the structure have not yet been submitted to the SCCPRD, which would act as the lead agency for environmental review and permitting.

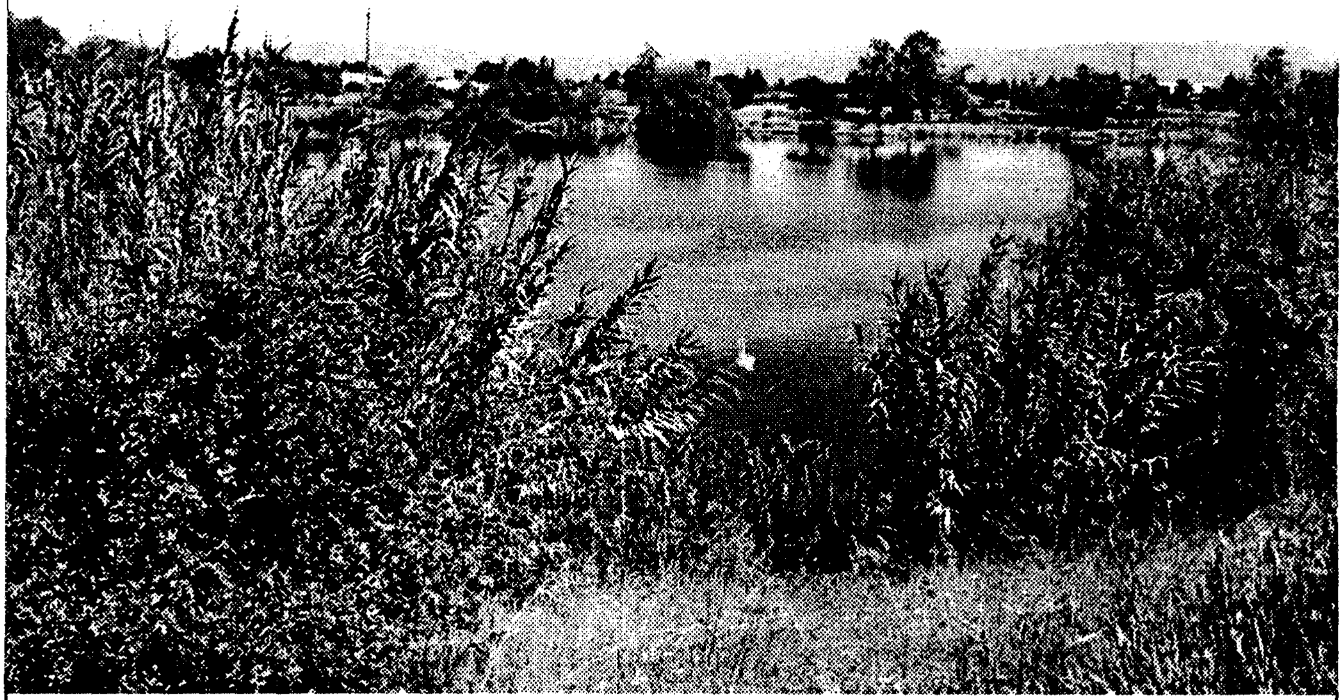
In addition to use of the Reservoir by the rowing clubs, other special events such as bicycle rides, foot races, interpretive hikes and search and rescue training are scheduled throughout the year.

The total number of vehicles entering Lexington Reservoir for the first six months of fiscal year 1993/1994 (July 1, 1993 to December 31, 1993) was estimated by Park staff to be 11,492 and total visitation was estimated at 49,863. Also counted were the number of users participating in each of the following recreation activities:

picnicking (Miller Point)	3,645
fishing	4,996
hiking/jogging	17,435
horseback riding	285
bicycling	14,970
boating	3,699

2.9 LOS GATOS PERCOLATION PONDS

EPRL-PHO.PM4, 6/3/94, P2



Los Gatos Percolation Ponds

View North from South End of Pond 3
Los Gatos Creek Park

Capacity: 1,780 acre feet
Average Surface Area: 59 acres
Completed: 1935
Dam Height: 105 feet high, 250,000 cubic yards of material.
Lease History: Included in previous lease agreement.
Lease Area: 70 acres.
Park Area: 80 acres.
Recreational Uses: Fishing, non-motorized boating.

2.9 LOS GATOS PERCOLATION PONDS

Location and General Description. The Los Gatos Percolation Ponds, also referred to as the Camden Percolation Ponds, are within the Los Gatos Creek County Park just west of Highway 17 and south of Camden Avenue in the City of Campbell (see Figure 2.9.A). Water from the channelized Los Gatos Creek is diverted to three principal ponds with a combined surface area of 62 acres. The lease area as recorded by the SCVWD is shown in Figure 2.9.B. The lease area and vicinity land use and vegetation are shown on the aerial photo in Figure 2.9.C. Figure 2.9.D. shows the lease area in relation to vicinity topography. Figure 2.9.E shows the park facilities and layout.

SCVWD Lease and Use. The Los Gatos Percolation Ponds were part o. the original 1969 lease agreement. The primary use of the ponds is for recharge of the Santa Clara Groundwater Subbasin. The ponds divert water from Los Gatos Creek and receive water from the SCVWD Central Pipeline which carries untreated water from the South Bay Aqueduct (Department of Water Resources). The lease area includes 70 acres of the 80-acre Los Gatos Creek Park. The SCCPRD owns the 10 acres that make up the playfield and picnic area at the northwest corner of the Park.

Geography. The Los Gatos Percolation Ponds are in the alluvial deposits deposited by Los Gatos Creek before the creek was channelized. Originating near Mt. Loma Prieta in the Santa Cruz Mountain southeast of Los Gatos, Los Gatos Creek flows through a series of three reservoirs before reaching the percolation ponds. Los Gatos Creek flows northeast from the percolation ponds and joins the Guadalupe River in central San Jose which continues north to San Francisco Bay.

Access. The primary means of access to the Los Gatos Percolation Ponds is by the Los Gatos Creek Trail, a heavily traveled multi-use corridor that extends from San Jose to Lexington Reservoir. The trail runs north/south between the channel of Los Gatos Creek on the east and the three percolation ponds on the west. Motor vehicle access to Los Gatos Creek County Park is from Winchester Boulevard in Campbell, east on Hacienda, north on Dell and east on Lost Lake Lane, the park entrance road (see Figure 3.9.A).

Vegetation. Park vegetation includes turf areas and landscape trees. The Los Gatos Creek channel has marsh community vegetation. There are many introduced plants around the perimeter of the percolation ponds as well as scattered oaks and willows. The ponds are bordered by non-native grassland, thistle, fennel and pampas grass.

Land Use. Lands to the north and west are in the City of Campbell and are primarily light manufacturing, research and development and warehouse uses. Workers from these areas frequently take their lunch break in the Park. To the south are single family homes within the Town of Los Gatos. Directly to the east is Highway 17.

FIGURE 2.9.A -- LOS GATOS PERCOLATION PONDS VICINITY

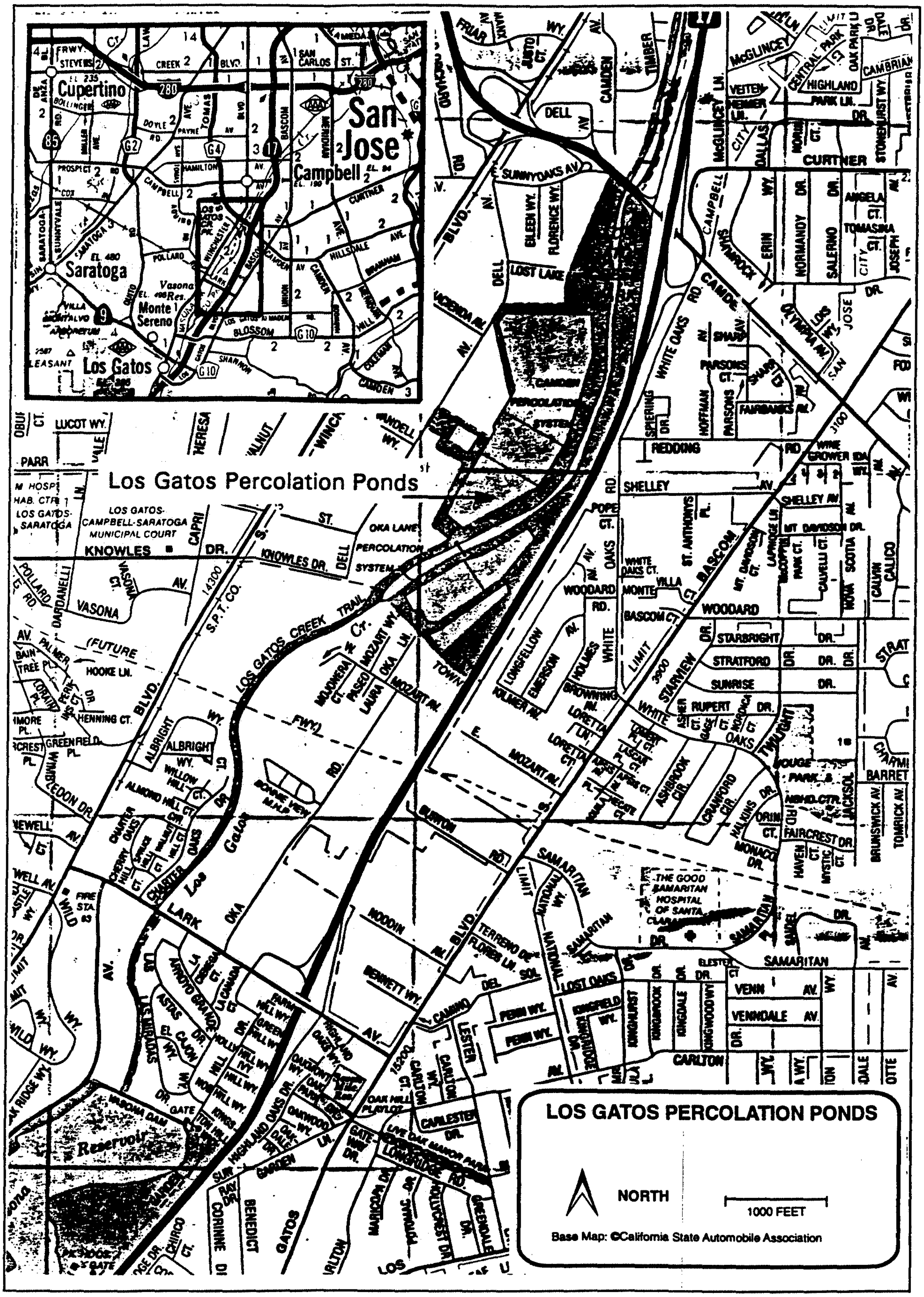

Los Gatos Percolation Ponds
LOS GATOS PERCOLATION PONDS
NORTH
1000 FEET
Base Map: ©California State Automobile Association
Cupertino
San Jose
Campbell
Saratoga
Monte Sereno
Los Gatos
Vasona Res.
CAMDEN PERCOLATION SYSTEM
OKA LANE PERCOLATION SYSTEM
LOS GATOS-CAMPBELL-SARATOGA MUNICIPAL COURT
THE GOOD SAMARITAN HOSPITAL OF SANTA CLARA
LOS GATOS CREEK TRAIL
Reservoir
KNOWLES DR.
BASCOM
SAMARITAN
LARK AV.
WHITE OAKS RD.
CAMDEN
UNION AV.
CURTNER
WOODARD
VASONA
DELL
LOST LAKE
BLOSSOM HILL RD.

FIGURE 2.9.B -- LOS GATOS PERCOLATION PONDS LEASE AREA

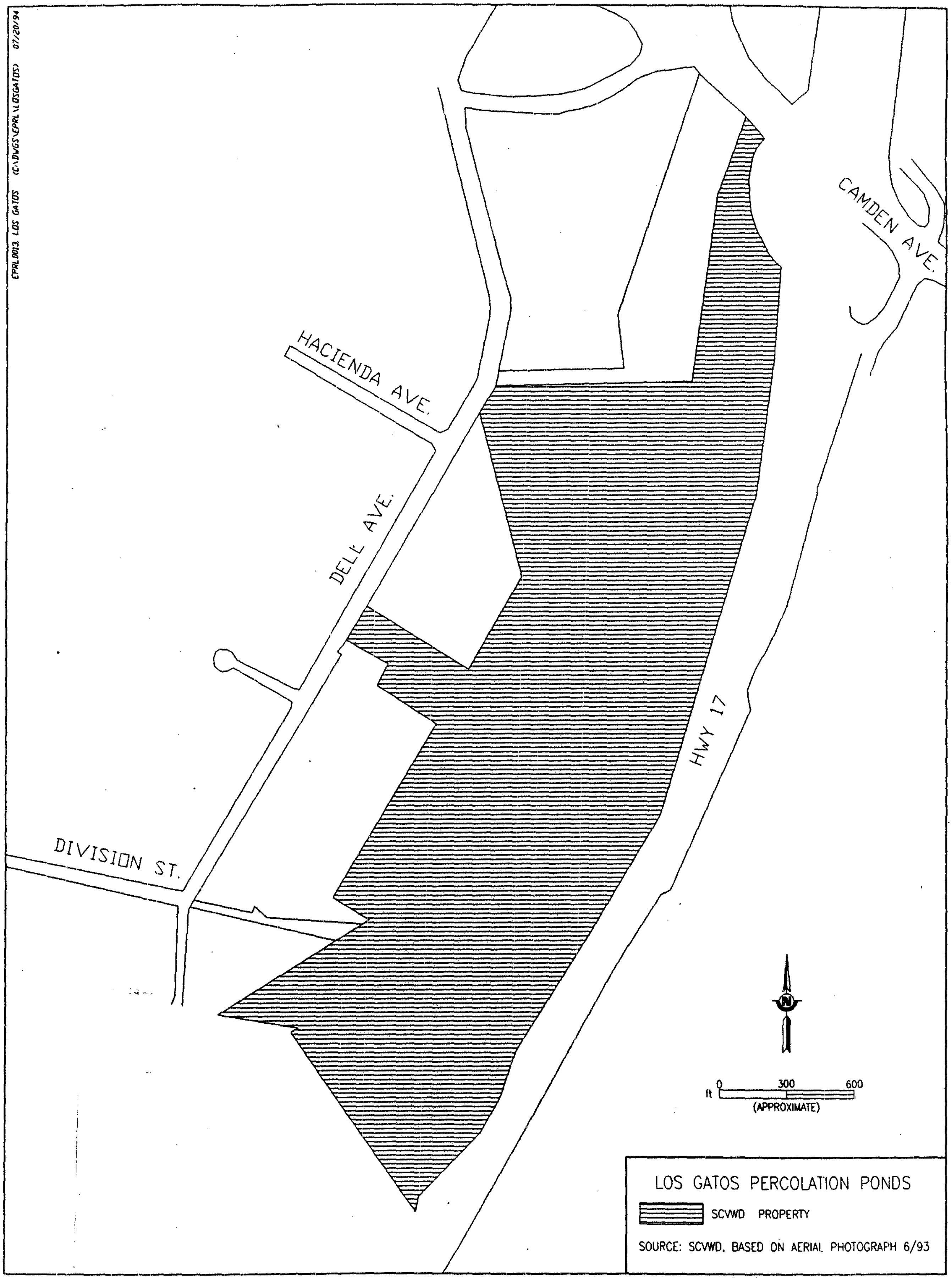
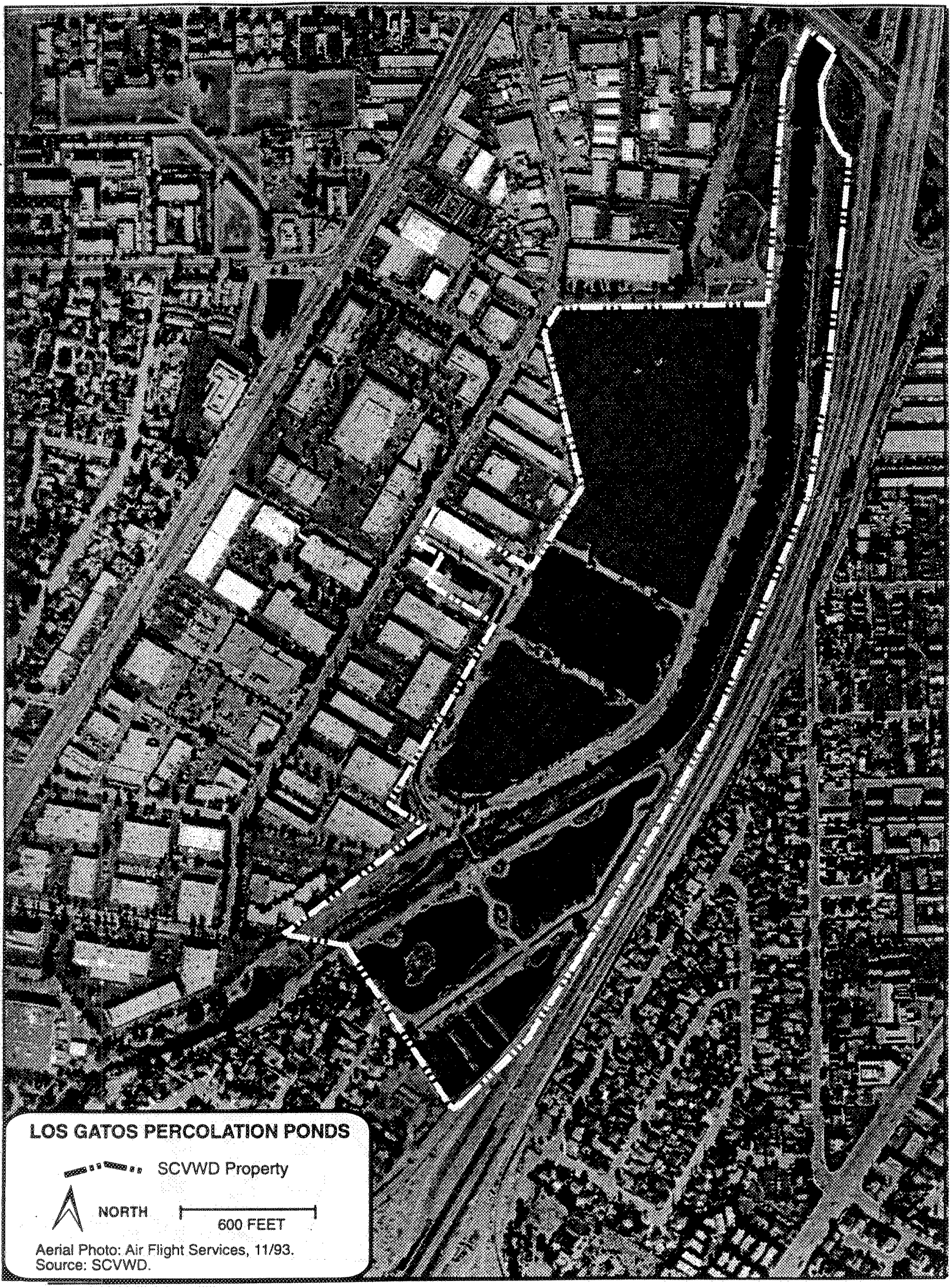

EPRL0013, LOS GATOS <C:\DWGS\EPRL\LOSGATOS> 07/20/94
HACIENDA AVE.
CAMDEN AVE.
DELL AVE.
HWY 17
DIVISION ST.
N
0
300
600
ft
(APPROXIMATE)
LOS GATOS PERCOLATION PONDS
▤ SCVWD PROPERTY
SOURCE: SCVWD, BASED ON AERIAL PHOTOGRAPH 6/93

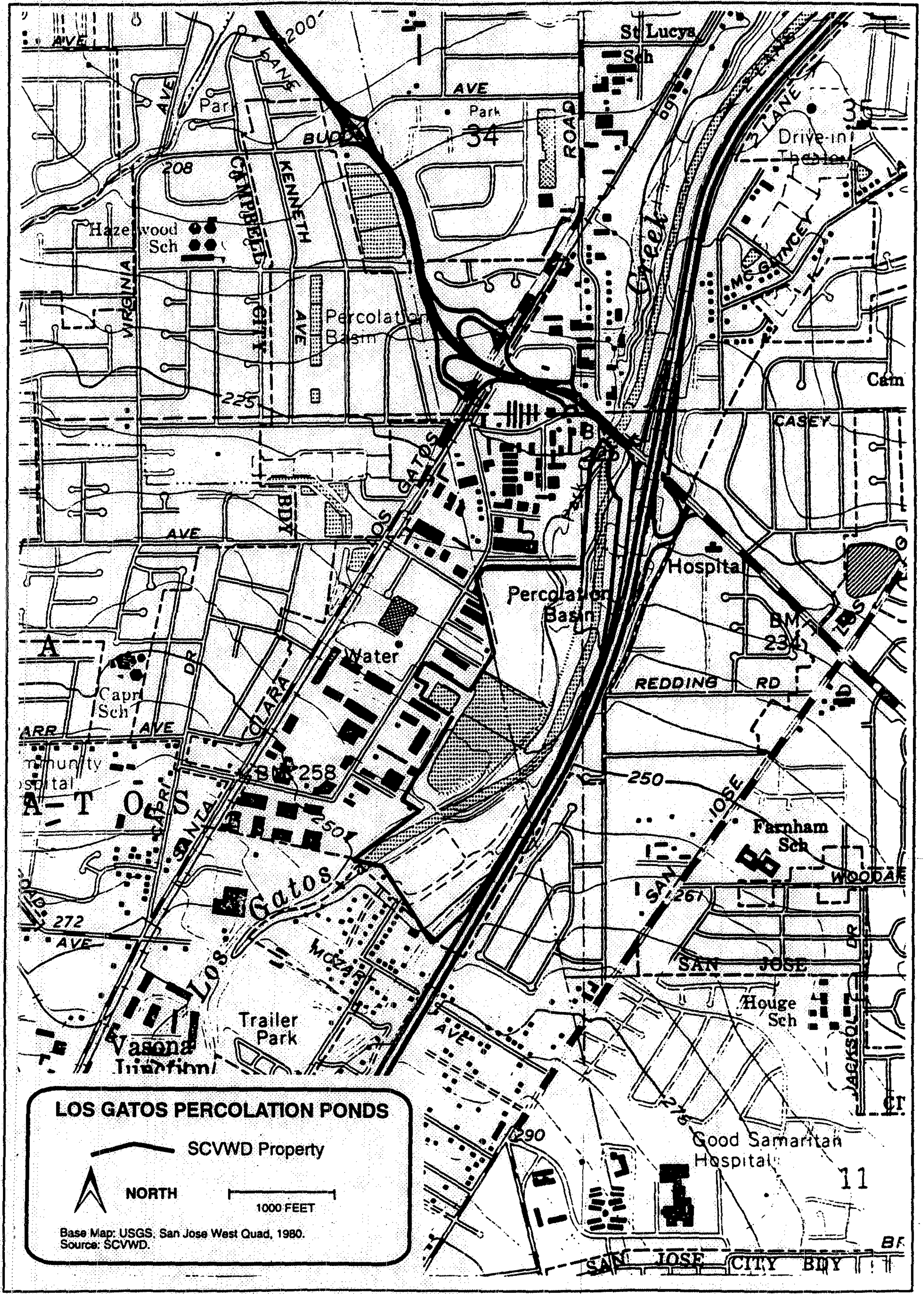
FIGURE 2.9.C -- LOS GATOS PERCOLATION PONDS AERIAL PHOTOGRAPH

EPRL-LG.FH3, 06/16/94, Los Gatos



Aerial Photo: Air Flight Services, 11/93.
Source: SCVWD.

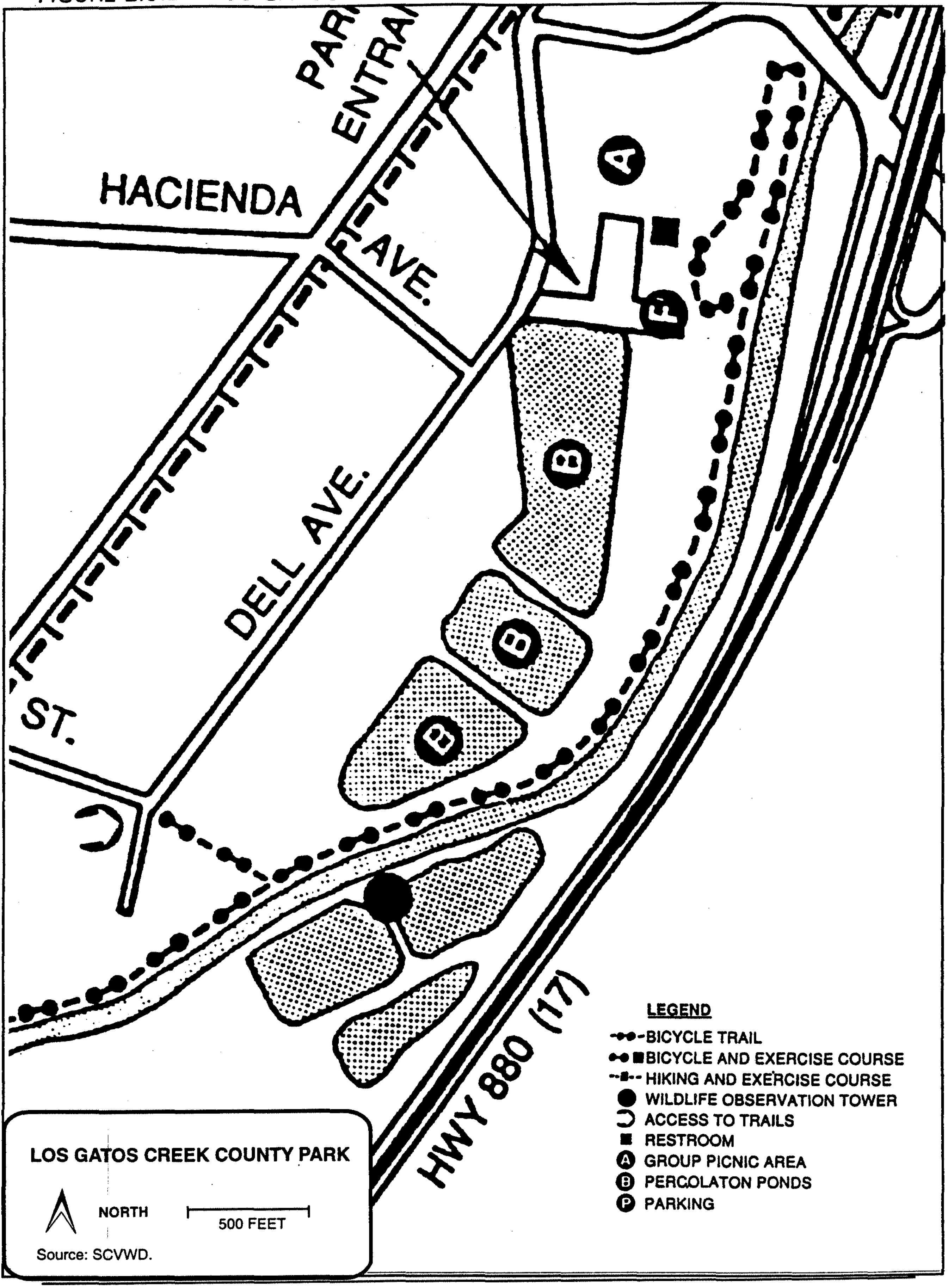
FIGURE 2.9.D -- LOS GATOS PERCOLATION PONDS TOPOGRAPHY



Base Map: USGS, San Jose West Quad, 1980.
Source: SCVWD.

FIGURE 2.9.E -- LOS GATOS CREEK COUNTY PARK FACILITIES

EPRL-LG.FH3, 06/17/94, Los Gatos



Source: SCVWD.

Park Use. Los Gatos Creek County Park is essentially an urban park and has heavy visitation characteristic of open space in urbanized areas. The principal use of the Park is the north/south Los Gatos Creek Trail which is heavily used by all forms of transportation. The paved multi-use trail is used by runners, walkers, skaters, skateboarders, people in wheelchairs, bicyclists and people walking their dogs. Visitors that stay within the Park fish, picnic, birdwatch or sail model boats. The central pond of the three is reserved exclusively for this latter use. Small, non-power boats can use the larger ponds at the north end of the Park.

Day use fees are collected by Park staff at an entrance kiosk. The Park has benches along the shoreline, a telephone, potable water, a large parking lot, a restroom and one group picnic area situated alongside 5 acres of turf for playfields. The group picnic area can be reserved in advance. There are also 7 individual picnic sites near the playfields and several tables along the northern end of the northern pond. The ponds are stocked with trout in the spring.

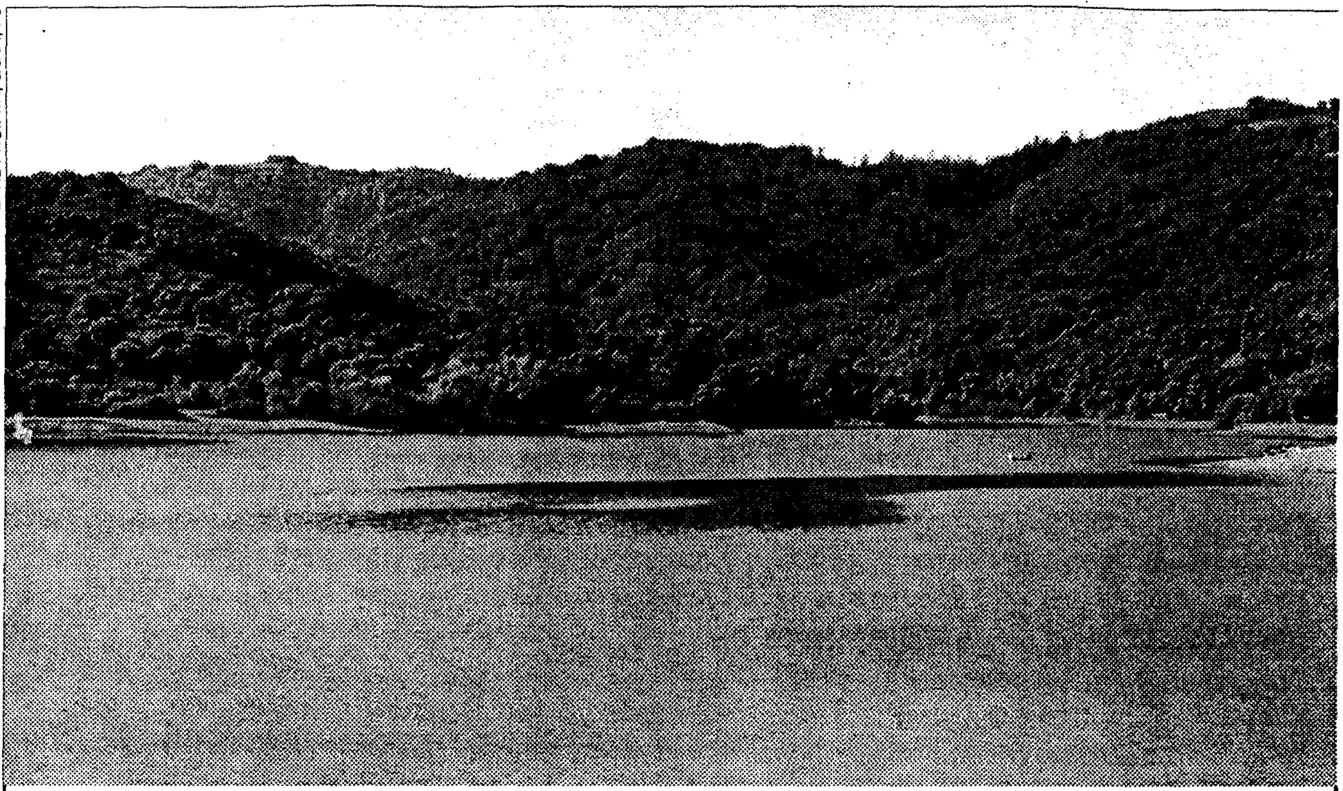
Park staff counted 12,349 vehicles and 131,951 visitors entering the Park in the first six months of fiscal year 1993/1994 (July 1, 1993 to December 31, 1993). These figures demonstrate that most visitors access the Park by the trail or from the adjacent neighborhoods. Also counted were the number of users participating in each of the following recreation activities during the first six months of the 1993/1994 fiscal year:

picnicking	3,709
fishing	2,712
hiking/jogging	57,489
windsurfing	150

No figures were available for bicyclists on Los Gatos Creek Trail.

2.10. STEVENS CREEK RESERVOIR

EPRL-PHO.PM4, 6/3/94, P8



Stevens Creek Reservoir
View South from Dam Stevens Creek County Park

Capacity: 3,465 acre feet
Average Surface Area: 197 acres
Completed: 1935
Dam Height: 120 feet high, 530,000 cubic yards of material.
Lease History: 1969 lease agreement.
Lease Area: 158 acres.
Park Area: 1,042 acres.
Recreational Uses: Fishing, non-motorized or electric motor boating, picnicking, equestrian and hiking trail.

2.10. STEVENS CREEK RESERVOIR

Location and General Description. Stevens Creek Reservoir is located in Stevens Creek Park on Stevens Canyon Road just south of the city limits of Cupertino in western Santa Clara County (see Figure 2.10.A). The lease area as recorded by the SCVWD is shown in Figure 2.10.B. The lease area and vicinity land use and vegetation are shown on the aerial photo in Figure 2.10.C. Figure 2.10.D. shows the lease area in relation to vicinity topography. Figure 2.10.E shows the park facilities and layout.

SCVWD Lease and Use. The primary purpose of Stevens Creek County Park is to impound the water of Stevens Creek for percolation to recharge the Santa Clara Groundwater Subbasin. The SCVWD operates this reservoir for water conservation purposes only. However, due to the presence of this reservoir in the watershed, there may be some incidental flood control benefits. The lease area was included in the 1969 lease agreement. The 158-acre lease area consists of:

- the 92 acre reservoir;
- lands between the Reservoir and Stevens Canyon Road with the exception of the Lakeshore Picnic Area;
- the area below the dam and spillway; and

the lower slopes of the ridge on the south east side of the Reservoir.

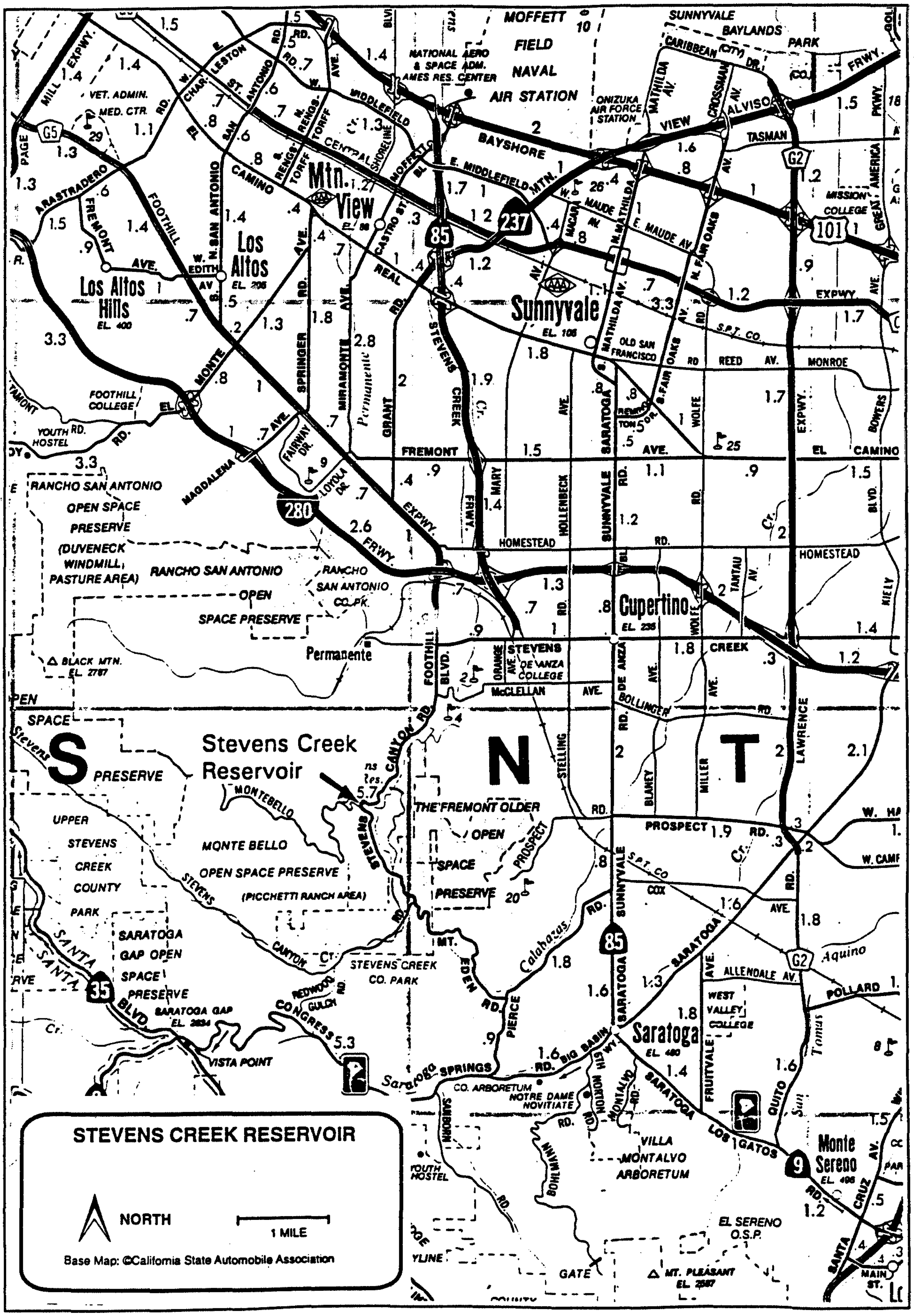
The lease area comprises approximately 13% of the total land area of Stevens Creek County Park which extends into the City of Cupertino to the north and encompasses significant acres of Stevens Creek watershed to the south.

Geography. Stevens Creek has cut a narrow canyon along the base of Montebello Ridge, on the north and Table Mountain to the south. Montebello Ridge, a northwest trending ridge is adjacent to the east of the San Andreas fault zone which crosses within 500 feet of the southern end of Stevens Creek County Park. The Reservoir impounds the Creek at the point where the canyon begins to widen as it descends from the northeastern foothills of the Santa Cruz Mountains. From the Reservoir, Stevens Creek flows nearly due north to San Francisco Bay.

Access. Stevens Creek Reservoir is accessed from the Foothill Boulevard south exit from Interstate 280 in Cupertino. Foothill Boulevard becomes Stevens Canyon Road after leaving the residential area of southern Cupertino. Parking for the Reservoir is along Stevens Canyon Road. Stevens Creek County Park has an interior park road network which is also accessed from Stevens Canyon Road.

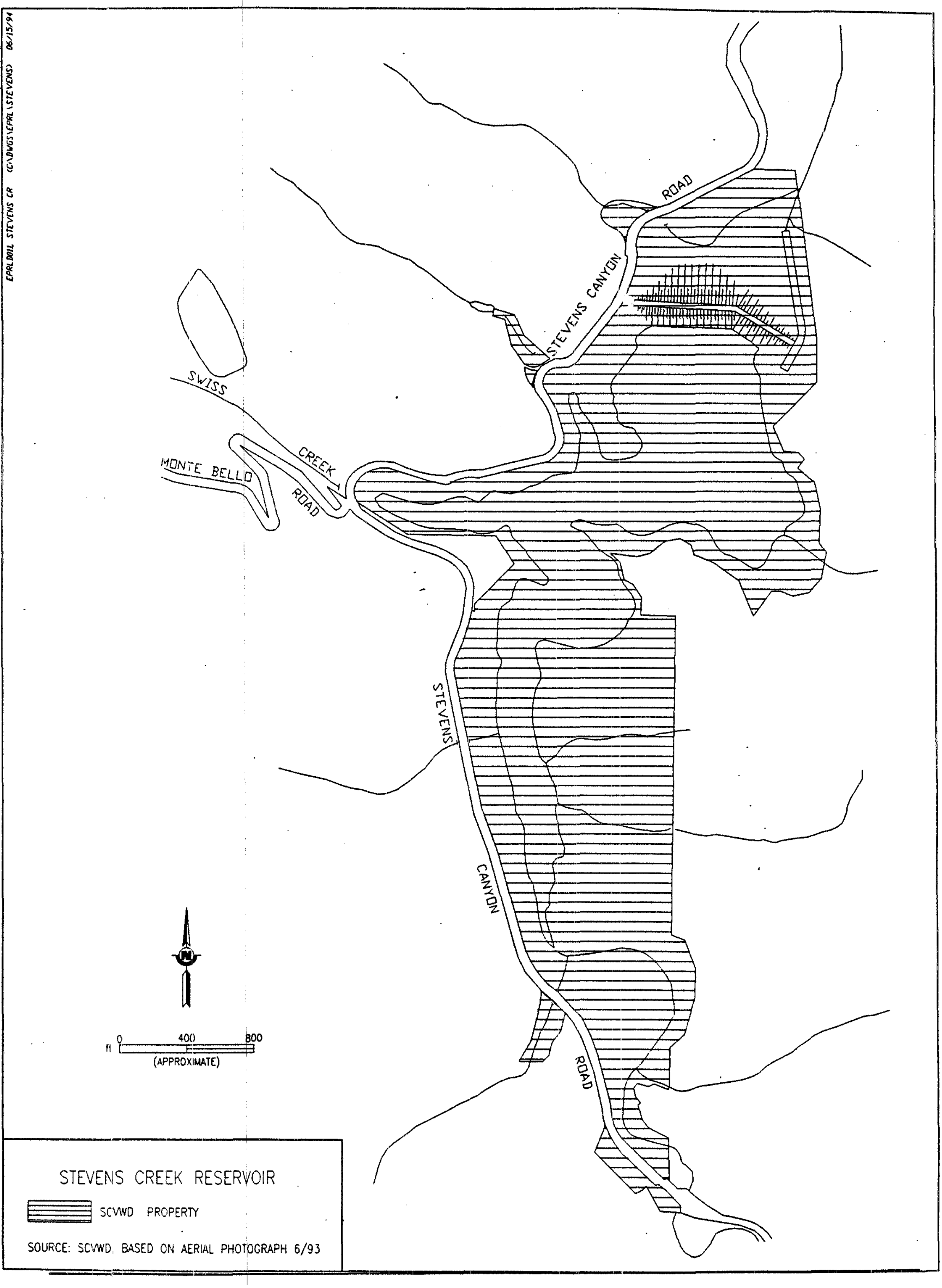
Trail connections from adjacent Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District (MROSD) properties allow non-vehicular access to Stevens Creek County Park. Equestrians, runners, hikers, mountain bikers can enter Stevens Creek County Park from the Fremont Older Open Space Preserve to the east.

FIGURE 2.10.A -- STEVENS CREEK RESERVOIR VICINITY



Base Map: ©California State Automobile Association

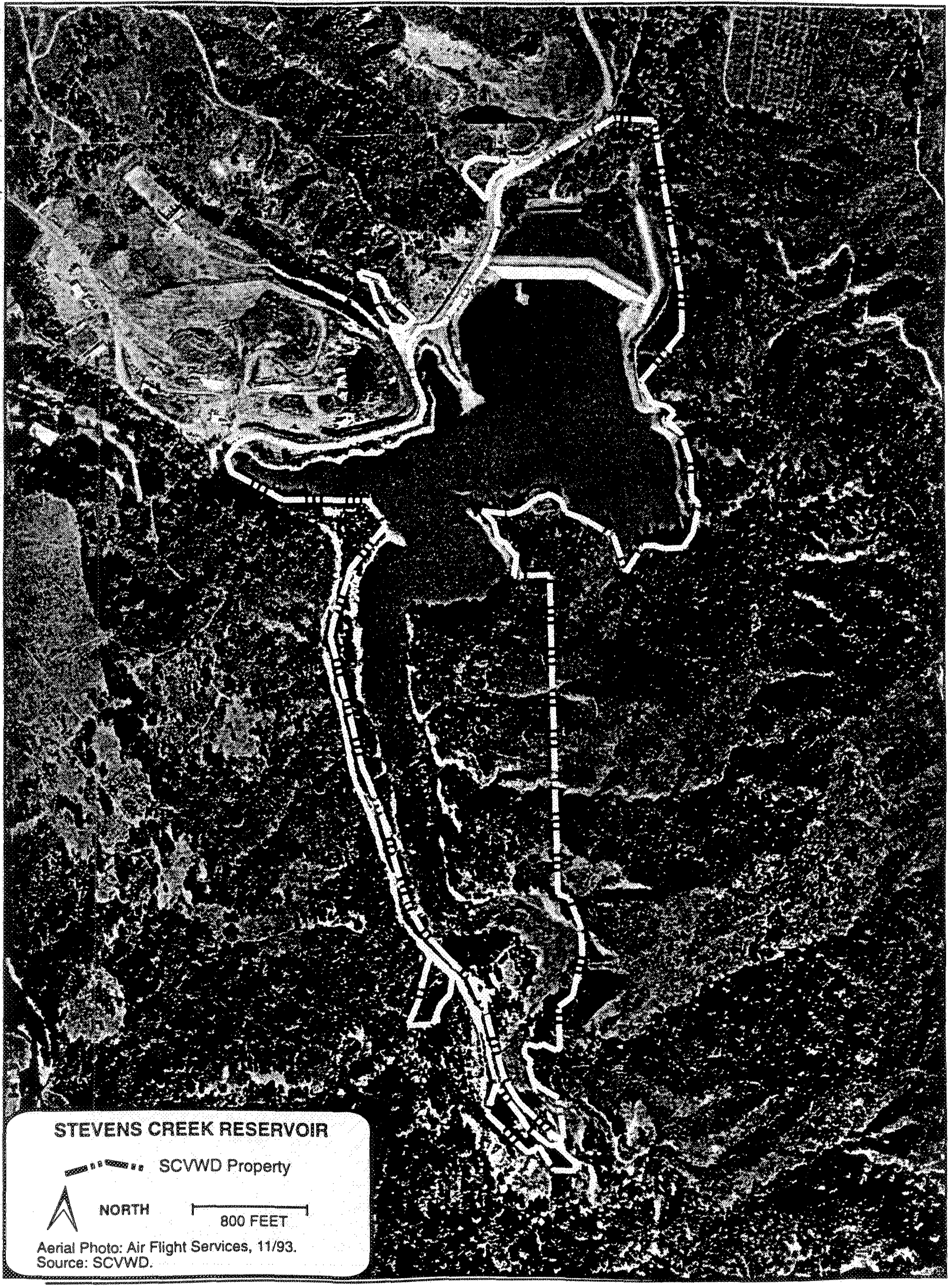
FIGURE 2.10.B -- STEVENS CREEK RESERVOIR LEASE AREA



SOURCE: SCVWD, BASED ON AERIAL PHOTOGRAPH 6/93

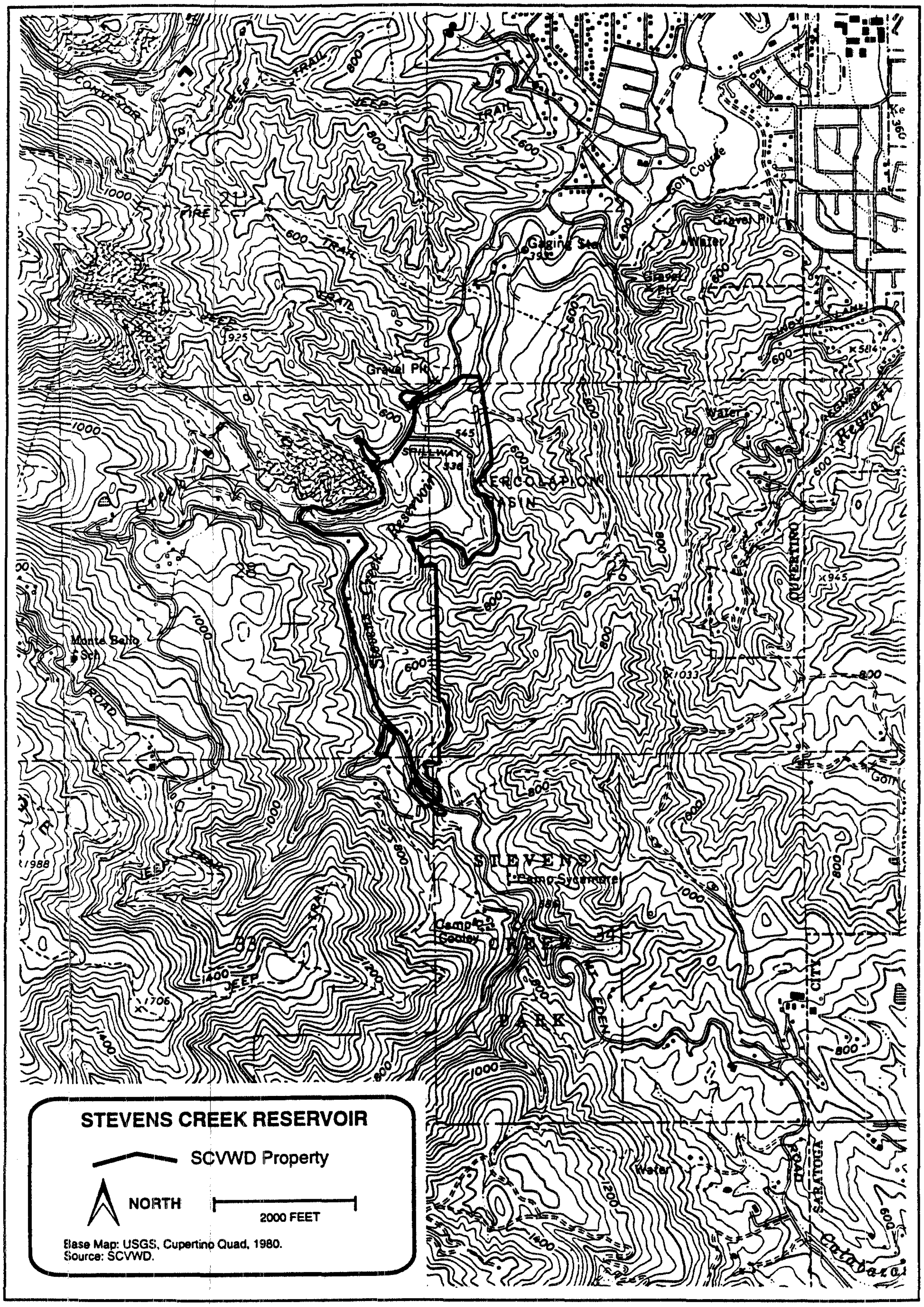
FIGURE 2.10.C -- STEVENS CREEK RESERVOIR AERIAL PHOTOGRAPH

EPRL-SC.FH3, 07/20/94, Stevens Creek

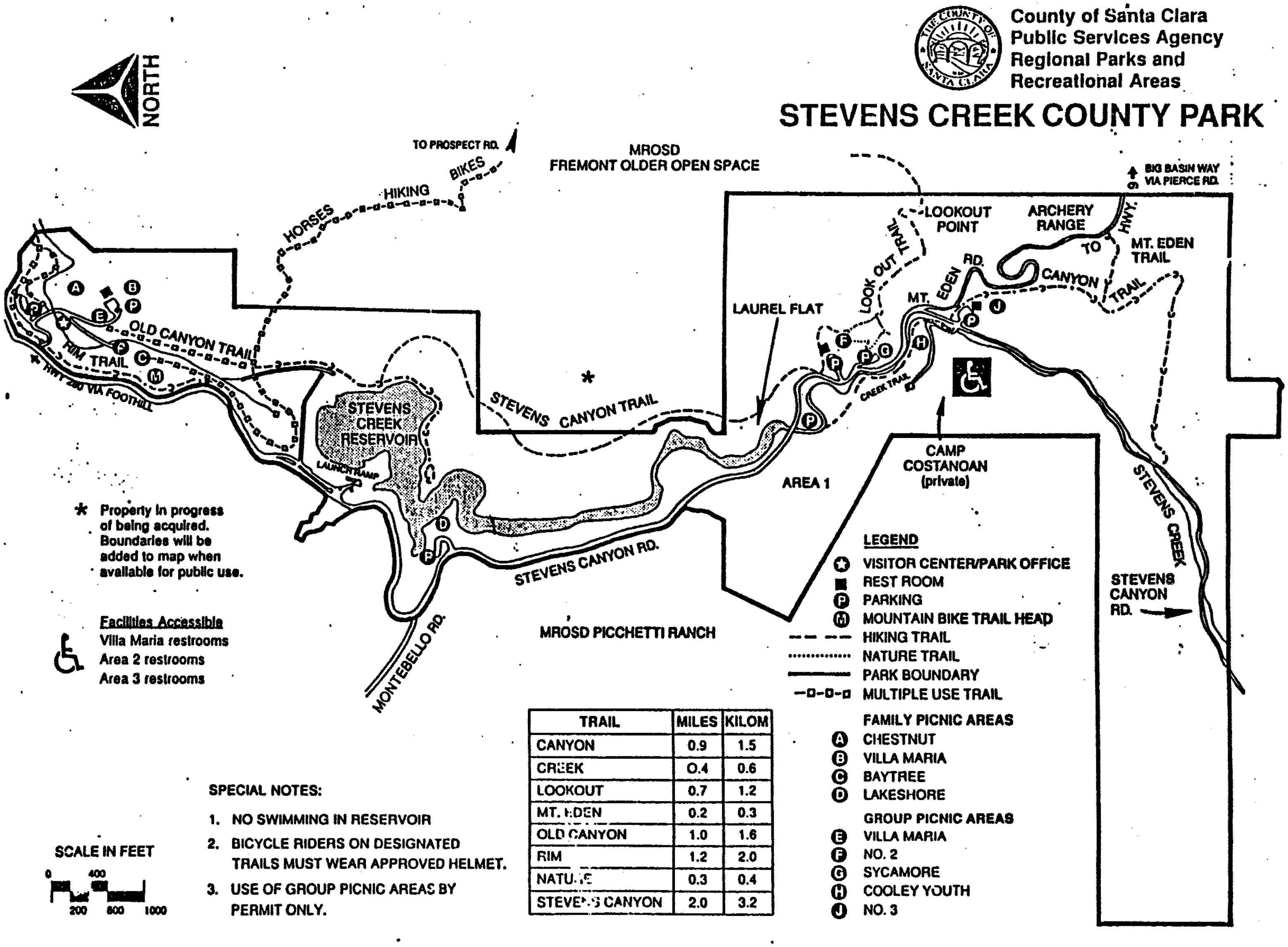


Aerial Photo: Air Flight Services, 11/93.
Source: SCVWD.

FIGURE 2.10.D -- STEVENS CREEK RESERVOIR TOPOGRAPHY



Base Map: USGS, Cupertino Quad, 1980.
Source: SCVWD.



TRAIL	MILES	KILOM
CANYON	0.9	1.5
CREEK	0.4	0.6
LOOKOUT	0.7	1.2
MT. EDEN	0.2	0.3
OLD CANYON	1.0	1.6
RIM	1.2	2.0
NATURE	0.3	0.4
STEVENS CANYON	2.0	3.2

SPECIAL NOTES:

1. NO SWIMMING IN RESERVOIR
2. BICYCLE RIDERS ON DESIGNATED TRAILS MUST WEAR APPROVED HELMET.
3. USE OF GROUP PICNIC AREAS BY PERMIT ONLY.

FIGURE 2.10.E -- STEVENS CREEK RESERVOIR COUNTY PARK FACILITIES

Vegetation. The lease area includes the lands directly downstream from the dam where the narrow Creek channel flows through a mixed evergreen forest with Douglas fir, tanoak, madrone, bay trees, black oak and big-leaf maple. On the western ridge above the Reservoir, north-facing slopes are predominately oak woodland and south-facing slopes are chaparral with chamise, coyote bush, manzanita and ceonothus shrubs. The southern portion of the Reservoir is freshwater marsh with tules and rushes. At the extreme southern end of the lease area the riparian community of Stevens Creek includes sycamore, cottonwood, alder and coast live oak.

Land Use. The lease area comprising Stevens Creek Reservoir is nearly surrounded by public open space and recreation lands. North and south of the Reservoir are SCCPRD lands, MROSD lands lie to the west and southeast. An active quarry is operated adjacent to the northeast corner of the lease lands roughly opposite the Lakeview Picnic Area.

Park Use. Stevens Creek County Park operates for day use only, 7 days a week with no day use fees collected as there is no controlled access point into the park lands. Recreational activities within the lease area include fishing, individual and non-power or electric motor boating, hiking, bicycling, horseback riding and nature study. In addition, the remainder of the Park has several developed group picnic areas, the majority of the trail network, a visitor center, a nature trail and an archery range.

The boat launch area is just south of the dam along Stevens Canyon Road. No fees are collected in Stevens Creek County Park. The parking lot is parallel to the reservoir shore and accommodates approximately 70 cars. The Lakeshore Picnic Area is SCCPRD property that once was a resort adjacent to the Reservoir. There area 25 picnic tables and grills, potable water and a restroom. Parking is restricted to approximately 20 cars. This is a popular fishing area. It is directly across Stevens Canyon Road from the Quarry operation. The southern end of the lease area corresponds roughly to the first day use parking area in the upstream section of the park, where the Creek crosses to the west side of Stevens Canyon Road (see Figure 2.1~~1~~*0*.E., "Area 1").

At the upper end of the Reservoir and lease area are the popular fishing spots along and on either side of the dam. The multi-use trails are on the eastern side of the Reservoir within the lease area. Sections of the multi-use trail (bicycle, equestrian, hiking) below the dam are within the lease area as is the short equestrian trail along the eastern lakeshore and segments of Stevens Canyon Trail. None of the developed facilities in the downstream portion of the Park are within the lease area.

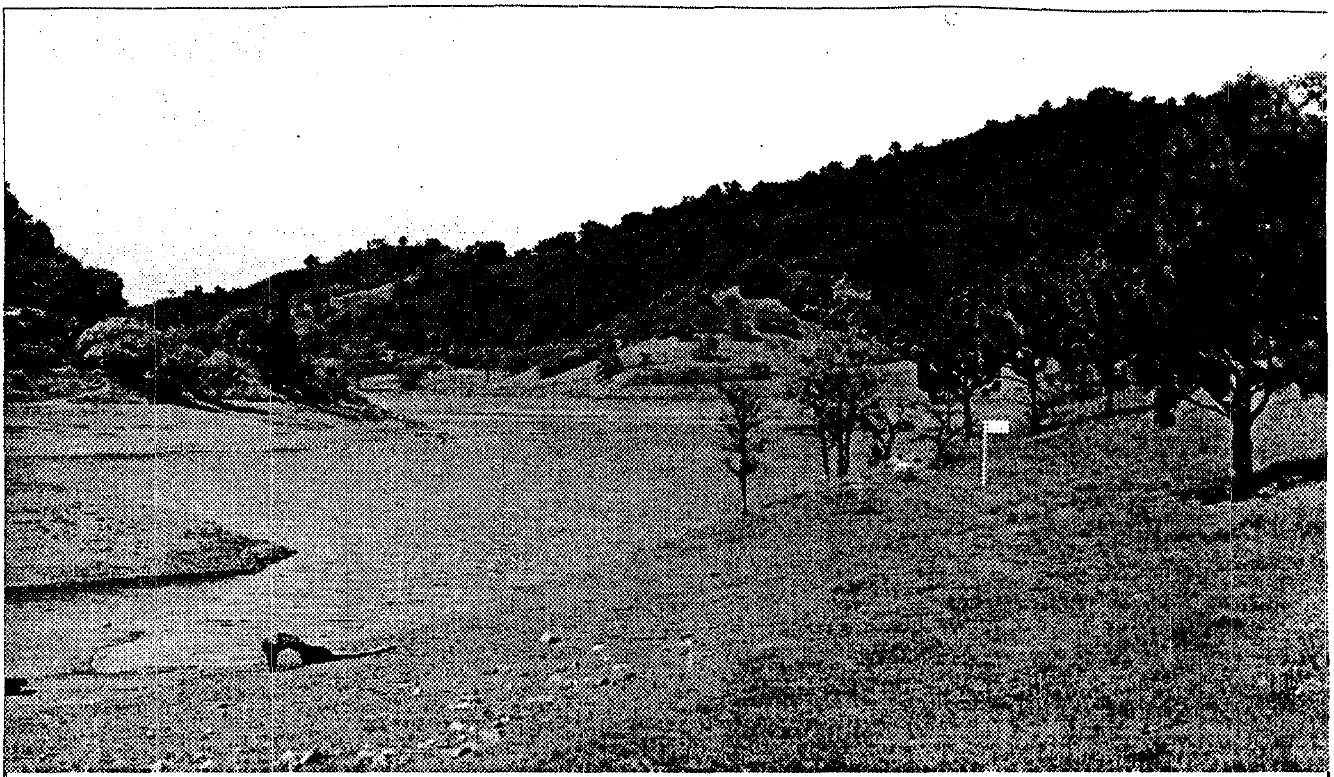
The park has an office and visitor center in the northern portion of the Park outside of the lease area. Park patrols lock gates at the boat launch and Lakeview Picnic Areas at sunset. Recent regulations require all bicyclists using designated bicycle trails within the Park to wear a helmet. Like all reservoirs in the County system, no swimming or wading is allowed.

Park staff counted 8,203 vehicles and 67,418 visitors entering Stevens Creek Reservoir in the first half of fiscal year 1993/1994 (July 1, 1993 to December 31, 1993). Also counted for this same time period were the number of users participating in each of the following recreation activities:

picnicking	13,070
fishing	6,355
hiking	15,943
horseback riding	1,386
bicycling	24,174
sailboating	2,108
archery	5,421

2.11 UVAS RESERVOIR

EPRL-PHO.PM4, 6/3/94, P9



Uvas Reservoir
View Northbound from Boat Lauch Area
Uvas Reservoir County Park

Capacity: 9,950 acre feet
Average Surface Area: 286 acres
Completed: 1957
Dam Height: 118 feet high, 377,000 cubic yards of material.
Lease History: 1989 lease agreement.
Lease Area: 639 acres.
Park Area: 639 acres.
Recreational Uses: Fishing, non-motorized or electric motor boating.

2.11 UVAS RESERVOIR

Location and General Description. Uvas Reservoir is located on Uvas Road in unincorporated southwestern Santa Clara County approximately 3.5 miles west of Morgan Hill and the unincorporated community of San Martin (see Figure 2.11.A). The lease area as recorded by the SCVWD is shown in Figure 2.11.B. The lease area and vicinity land use and vegetation are shown on the aerial photo in Figure 2.11.C. Figure 2.11.D. shows the lease area in relation to vicinity topography.

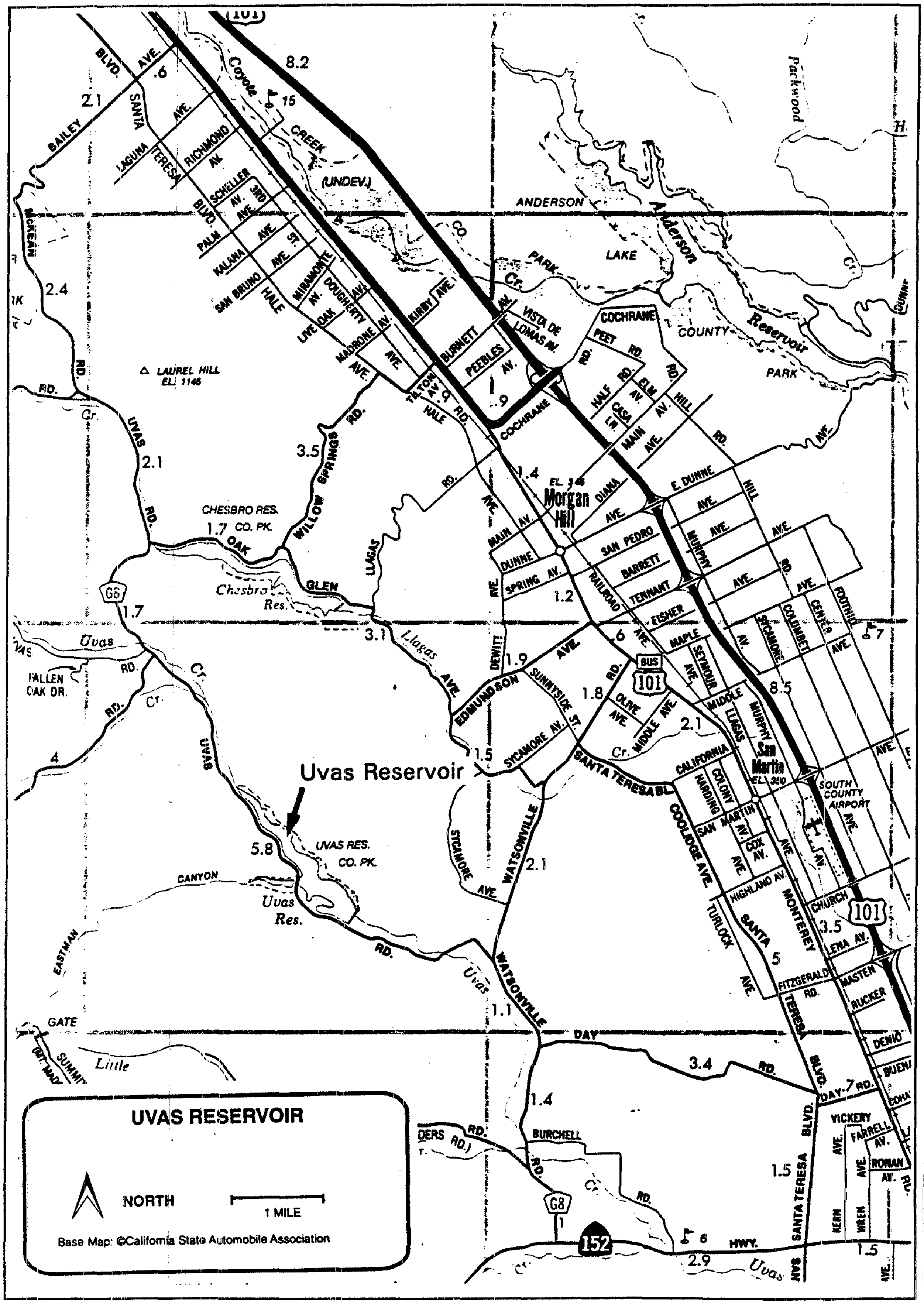
The Reservoir is oriented roughly northwest to southeast and floods a section of the channel of Uvas Creek for a distance of roughly 2.5 miles. Reservoir waters also back up into Eastman Canyon, a steep, narrow drainage on the west side of the Reservoir approximately one mile north of the dam. The average surface area of the Reservoir is 286 acres.

SCVWD Lease and Use. Stored waters are released periodically by the SCVWD to replenish the Llagas Groundwater Subbasin. The SCVWD operates this reservoir for water conservation purposes only. However, due to the presence of this reservoir in the watershed, there may be some incidental flood control benefits. The 639-acre lease area is co-equal with the SCCPRD park area. The Reservoir was completed in 1957 and was originally managed for recreation by the SCVWD. Uvas Reservoir has been leased to the SCCPRD since 1989. Like Chesbro Reservoir, the lease is renewed on a month-to-month basis pending the approval of the currently proposed lease agreement. The lease area includes:

- the reservoir, including Eastman Canyon slough;
- lands 15 feet above the maximum water level;
- the dam, spillway, and lands on both slopes directly beside dam and spillway;
- watershed comprised of the west-facing slope on the east side of the Reservoir, north of Twin Peaks.

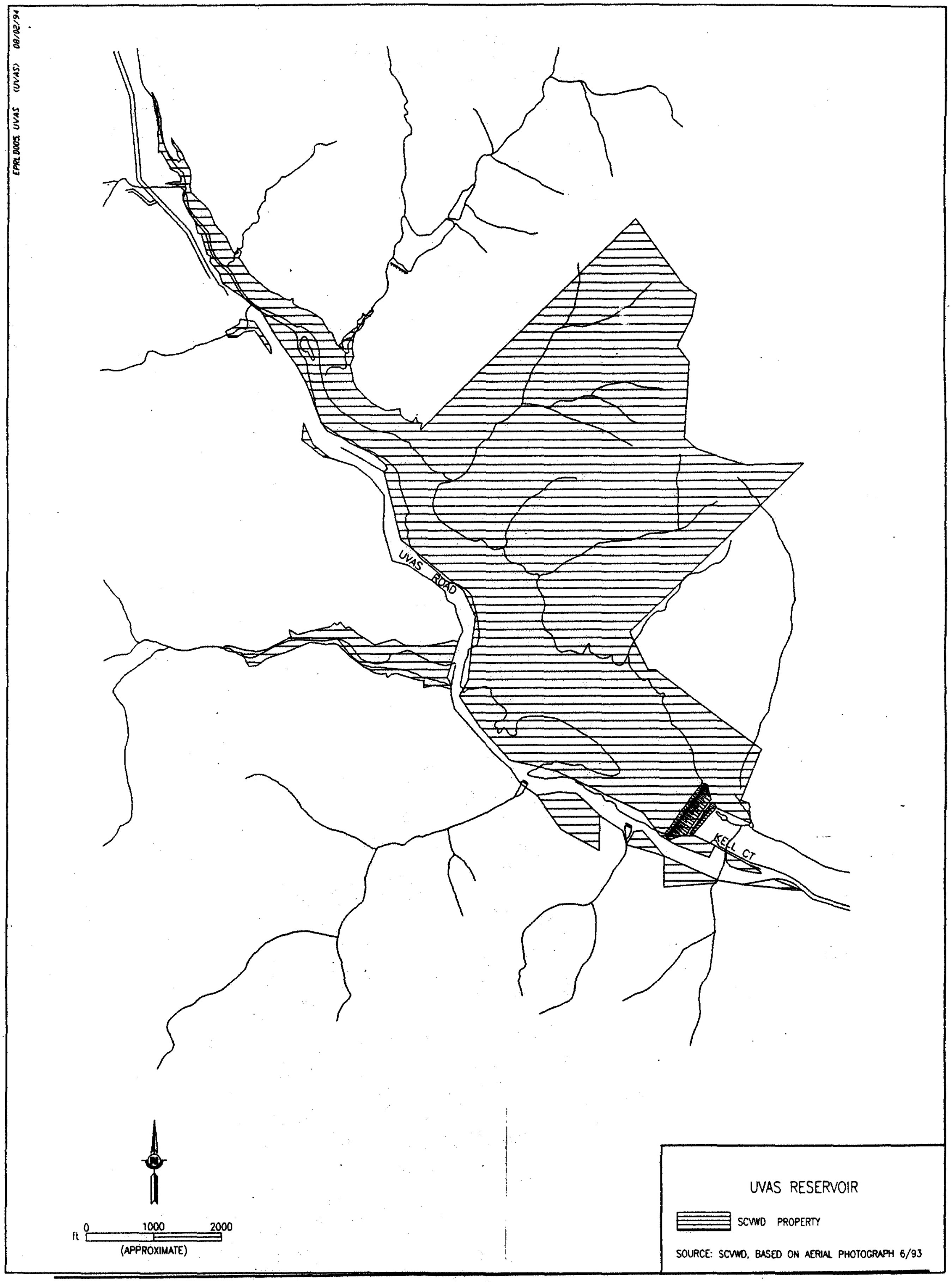
Geography. The Reservoir is in a northwest-trending, narrow valley in the eastern foothills of the Santa Cruz Mountains. The Reservoir captures runoff from Uvas Creek and numerous smaller unnamed drainages in the surrounding watershed. The northern end of the eastern ridge is cut by a bifurcated drainage that forms Dunn and Hay Canyons which are damned by a small reservoir on private lands. The eastern ridge is dominated at the southern end by its highest points, Twin Peaks, which crest at 1,459 feet and 1,552 feet just above the dam. Like the eastern ridge, the western ridge is also deeply divided by numerous drainages. The most prominent, Eastman Canyon, drains nearly due west to east to the midportion of the Reservoir. Eastern Canyon is flooded approximately 2,400 feet back from the main body of the Reservoir forming a deep slough. North of

FIGURE 2.11.A -- UVAS RESERVOIR VICINITY



Base Map: ©California State Automobile Association

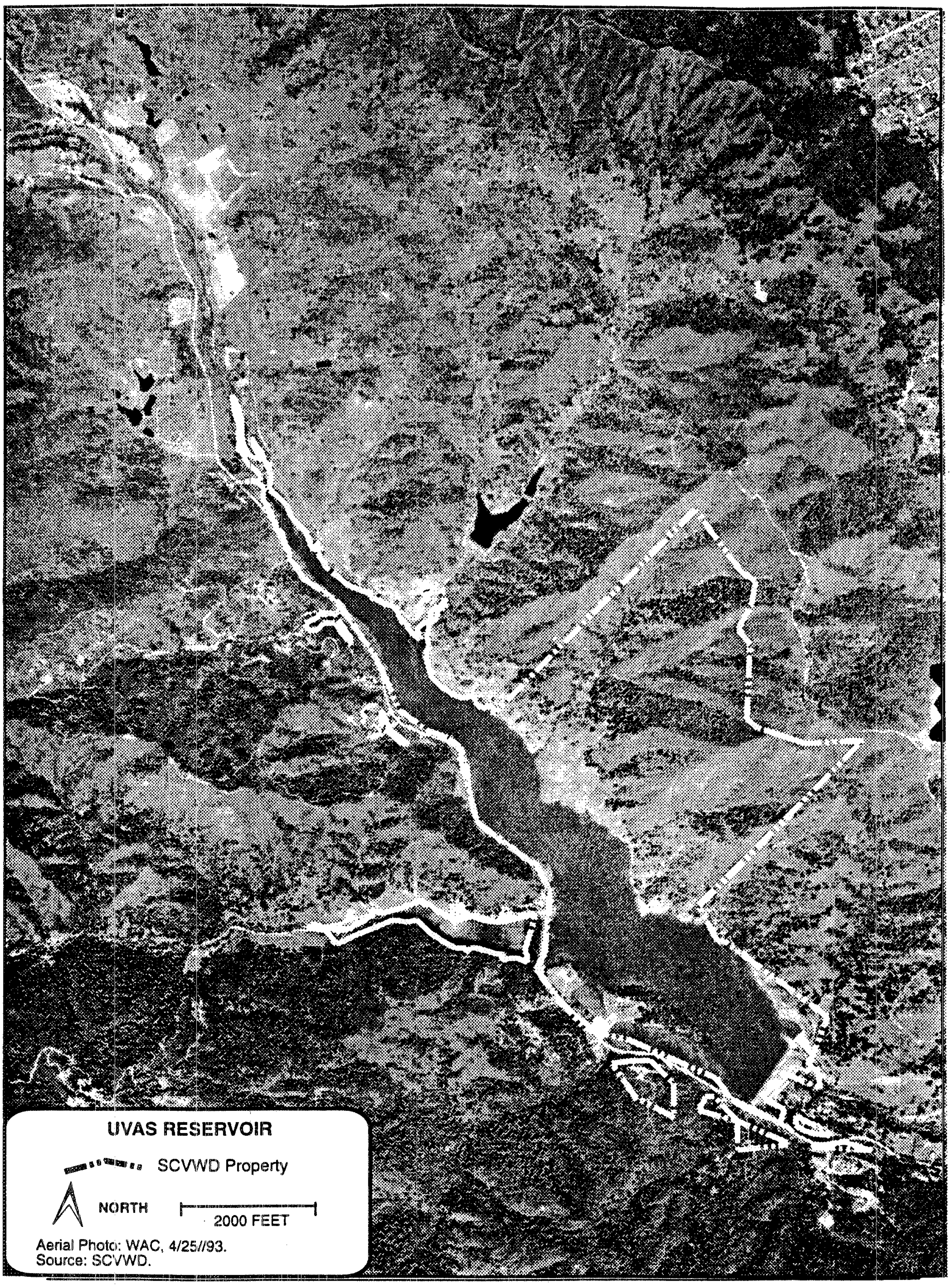
FIGURE 2.11.B -- UVAS RESERVOIR LEASE AREA



SOURCE: SCVWD, BASED ON AERIAL PHOTOGRAPH 6/93

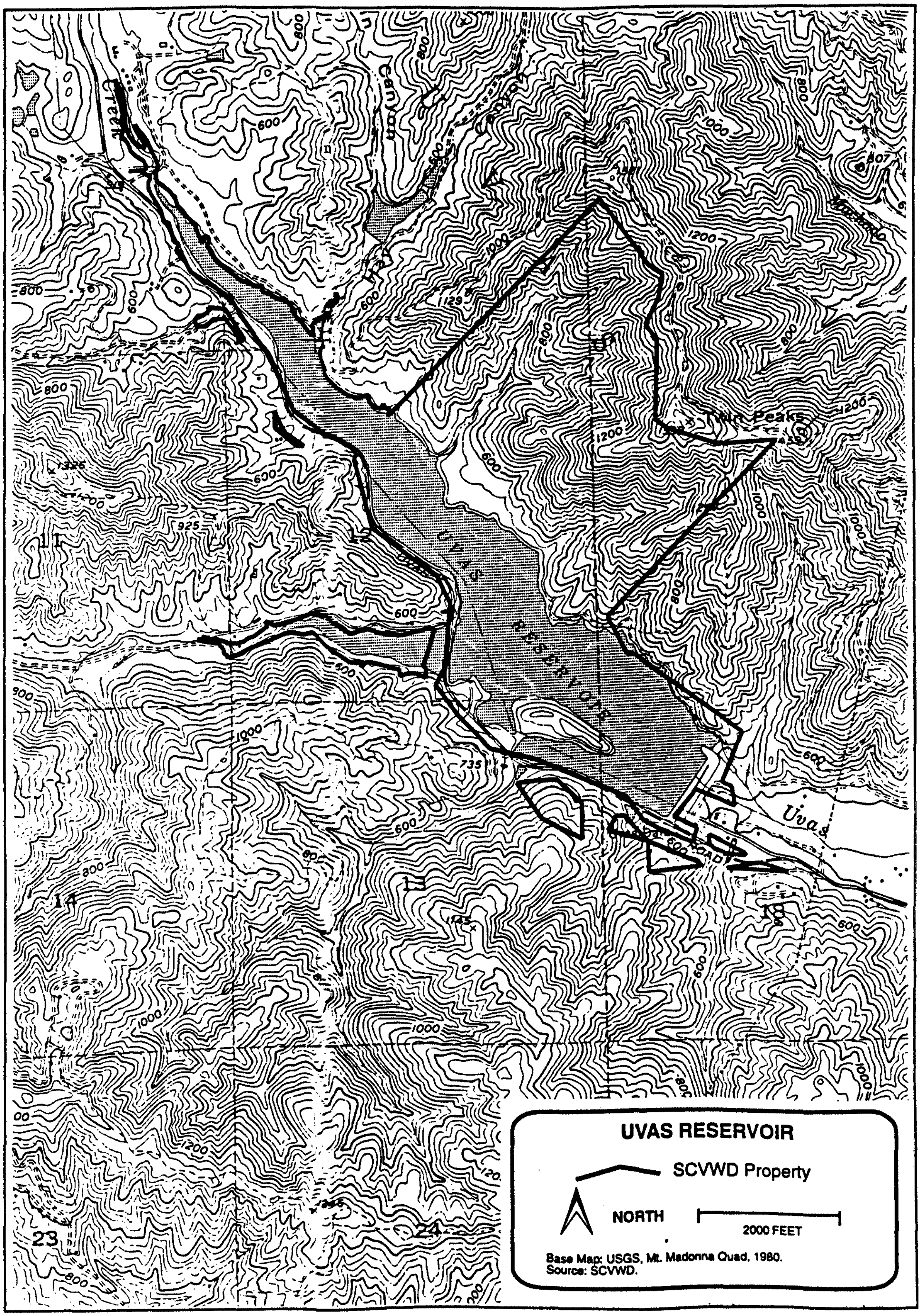
FIGURE 2.11.C -- UVAS RESERVOIR AERIAL PHOTOGRAPH

EPRL-UV.FH3, 06/10/94, Uvas



Aerial Photo: WAC, 4/25//93.
Source: SCVWD.

FIGURE 2.11.D -- UVAS RESERVOIR TOPOGRAPHY



Base Map: USGS, Mt. Madonna Quad, 1980.
Source: SCVWD.

Eastman Canyon, the ridgetop rises to 1,326 feet. South of Eastman Canyon above the dam the ridgetop elevation is 1,145.

Access. Access to Uvas Reservoir from Highway 101 is the Cochrane Road exit westbound in the City of Morgan Hill. Uvas Reservoir is reached by going northbound on the Monterey Highway, west on Tilton Avenue, north on Hale Avenue to Willow Springs Road. Willow Springs Road, paralleling Willow Springs Creek intersects Oak Glen Road midway along the northern perimeter of Chesbro Reservoir. Follow Oak Glen Road west and turn south at the Uvas Road intersection.

Uvas Reservoir can also be accessed by taking the Tennant Road exit westbound from Highway 101, turning south on Monterey Highway to Watsonville Road. Watsonville Road intersects with Uvas Road south of the dam.

Vegetation. The eastern shore of the Uvas Reservoir is mainly grassland. Above the high water line the vegetation shifts from grassland to chaparral and grassland on south-facing slopes and oak woodland on north-facing slopes. The lease lands include most of the three finger ridges divided by seasonal streams. The western ridge is predominantly oak woodlands.

Park Use. Recreational activities at Uvas Reservoir are primarily fishing, windsurfing and boating. No gasoline powered boats are allowed. Non-power boats such as canoes or rafts and electric motor boats with trolling motors are commonly used. A $5.00 fee is collected for boat launch privileges. The boat launching area is located on Uvas Road on the western end of the Reservoir approximately 2,200 feet north of the dam. In addition to the boat ramp, the area has 9 picnic tables and grills, a paved parking area, chemical toilets, an information board and a telephone. The picnic area is shaded by landscaping pines. A short trail leads east from the parking lot to a knoll on the peninsula that juts out into the Reservoir. There are no other trails in the park. The boat launch parking area is gated and locked from 1/2 hour before sunset to 8:00 am year-round. The Reservoir was not stocked for fish for the 1994 season.

During the present 1994 season, boating has been discontinued at Uvas Reservoir due to low water level. No general visitation counts are presently kept for Uvas Reservoir. During fiscal year 1992/1993, launch fees were collected for 1,580 boats and park staff estimated that 12,751 visitors fished and 5,718 picnicked at Uvas Reservoir (D. Smith, SCCPRD).

There is no recreational access to the eastern side of the Reservoir, especially when boating launching is not permitted. Access to the western shoreline of the Reservoir is from either the boat launch parking lot or several large pulloffs that have been created along Uvas Road. A large pullout on Uvas Road at the dam can hold approximately 100 vehicles. North of Eastman Canyon is a smaller roadside pulloff with a capacity for approximately 15 cars where windsurfers commonly access the lake. Further west, large stretches of road shoulder can provide parking for approximately 100 vehicles. Unofficial "volunteer" trails lead downslope from the pulloffs to the lakeshore.

Like Chesbro Reservoir, Uvas Reservoir is patrolled at least twice daily, seven days a year by ranger staff based at the Uvas Canyon Park Office. Ranger staff unlock the parking area/boat launch gate a 8:00 am and return to lock the gate 1/2 hour before sunset. During the summer peak season, overlapping shifts result in having as many as 3 rangers patrolling Uvas and Chesbro Reservoirs at midday. A patrol boat can be housed and secured at the Uvas boat launch parking area inside of a large shipping container. When Reservoir levels permit boat launching, ranger staff patrol the Reservoir on a daily basis (D. Smith, SCCPRD).

2.12. VASONA RESERVOIR

EPRL-PHO.PM4, 6/3/94, P12

Vasona Reservoir

View North from Bike Path on East Shore,
North of Circle Group Area Vasona Lake County Park

Capacity: 400 acre feet
Average Surface Area: 58 acres
Completed: 1935
Dam Height: 30 feet high, 70,000 cubic yards of material.
Lease History: 1969 lease agreement.
Lease Area: 88 acres.
Park Area: 153 acres.
Recreational Uses: Fishing, non-motorized boating, boat rentals, children's playground, picnicking, bicycle and pedestrian trail.

2.12. VASONA RESERVOIR

Location and General Description. Vasona Lake is located within Vasona Lake County Park in the Town of Los Gatos near the intersection of Highway 17 and Highway 85 (see Figure 2.12.A). Vasona Lake Park is the most heavily-visited park in the SCCPRD system. The lease area as recorded by the SCVWD is shown in Figure 2.12.B. The lease area and vicinity land use and vegetation are shown on the aerial photo in Figure 2.12.C. Figure 2.12.D. shows the lease area in relation to vicinity topography. Figure 2.12.E shows the park facilities and layout.

SCVWD Lease and Use. Vasona Reservoir was included in the 1969 lease agreement between the SCVWD and SCCPRD. Of the 153 acres comprising Vasona Lake Park, the lease area makes up 38% of the total park area or 58 acres. The SCVWD uses the Reservoir to store and release recharge waters to percolation ponds further downstream on Los Gatos Creek.

Many of the facilities at the Park are not on SCVWD lease lands. These areas include the Billy Jones Railroad, located in the southern portion of the Park, two small ponds, many of the picnic areas and much of the turfed activity areas, the youth institute, and the Max Watson Eucalyptus Grove. There are approximately 750 to 800 parking spaces in the Park many of which are not on lease lands.

Park facilities which are on SCVWD lease lands include the Sailing Center, a fishing pier and the Los Gatos Creek Trail.

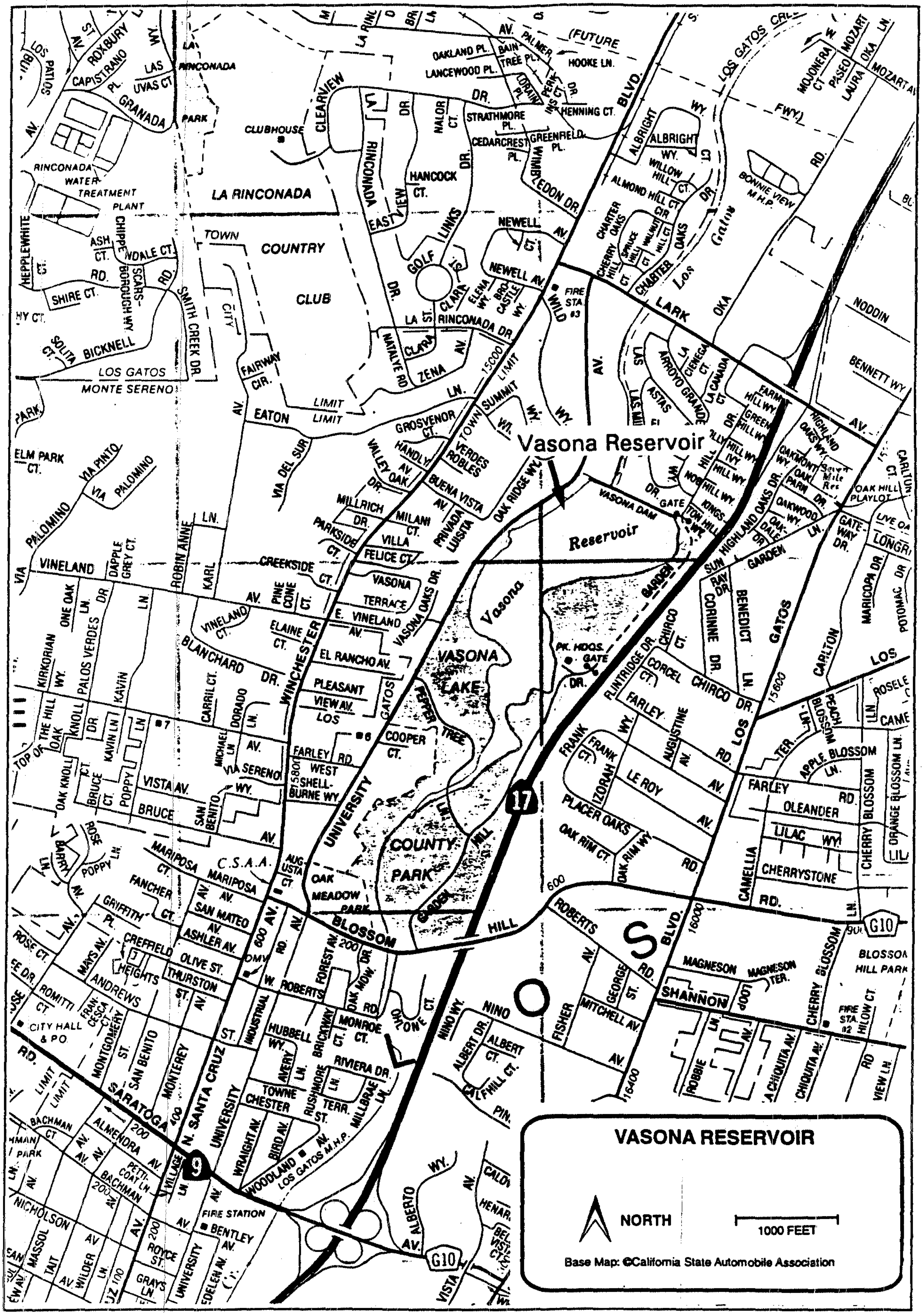
Geography. Vasona Reservoir is located in the alluvial floodplain formed by Los Gatos Creek prior to its channelization. Sediments carried by Los Gatos Creek from the Santa Cruz Mountains were deposited along the creek channel as the speed of water decreased when the creek channel widened after leaving the mountains and entering the Santa Clara Valley at Los Gatos.

Access. Vasona Reservoir is accessed from the Lark Avenue exit westbound in Los Gatos from Highway 17. From Lark Avenue, turn south onto University Avenue and then east on Blossom Hill to enter the Park at Garden Hill Drive.

Non-vehicular access to the Park is from the Los Gatos Creek Trail which runs north/south along the eastern side of the Reservoir and is extremely popular with bicyclists, runners, walkers, people in wheelchairs, skateboarders and skaters. The Park can also be accessed through the neighboring Town of Los Gatos Oak Meadow Park.

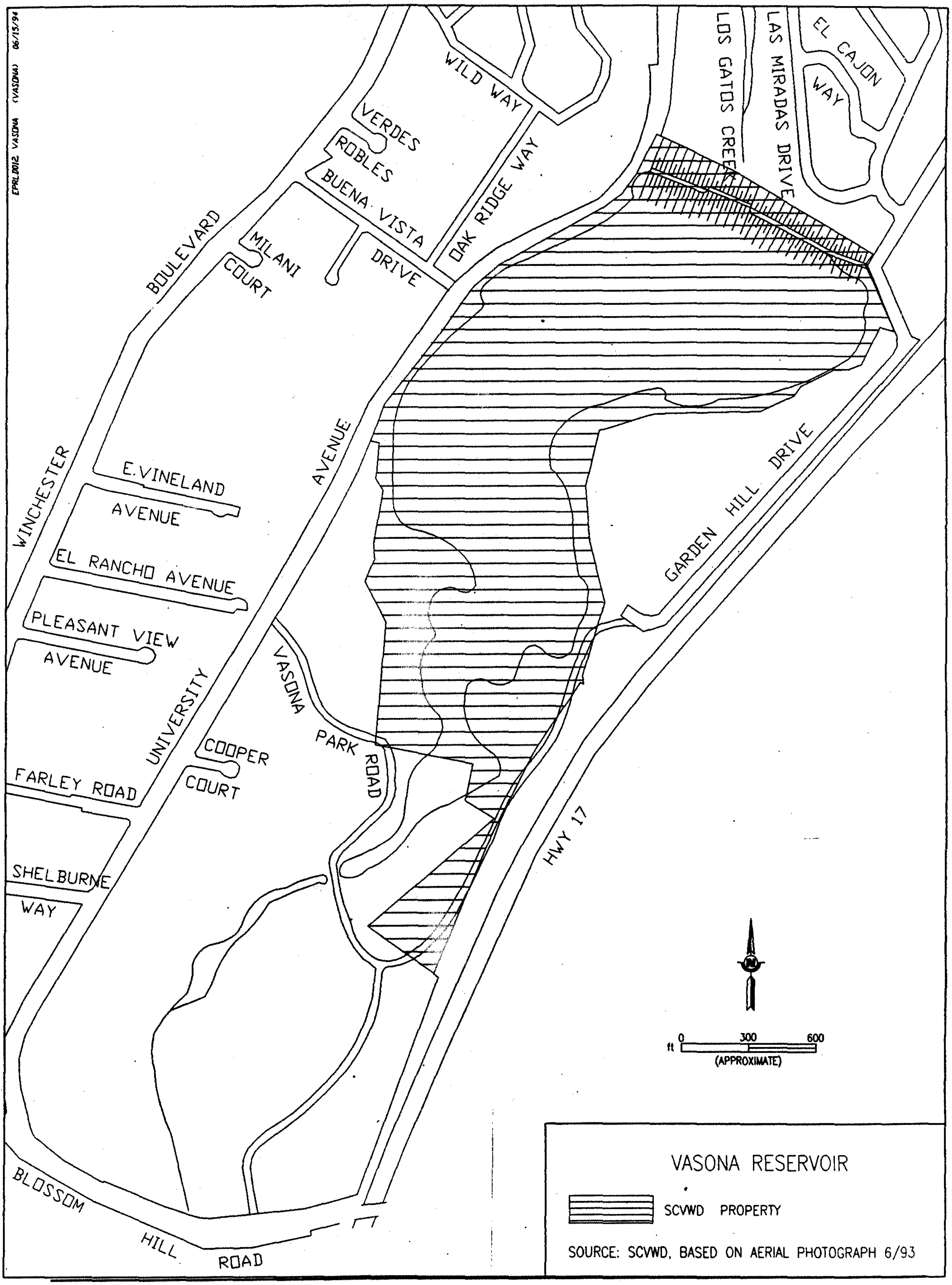
Vegetation. Much of the vegetation within Vasona Park is typical landscape vegetation common to urban parks. There are numerous older trees along the lakeshore, particularly oaks and willows, maple and eucalyptus. There is marsh vegetation where undisturbed in quieter pockets along the Reservoir shoreline. Much of the park is turf for picnic areas and playfields.

FIGURE 2.12.A -- VASONA RESERVOIR VICINITY



Base Map: ©California State Automobile Association

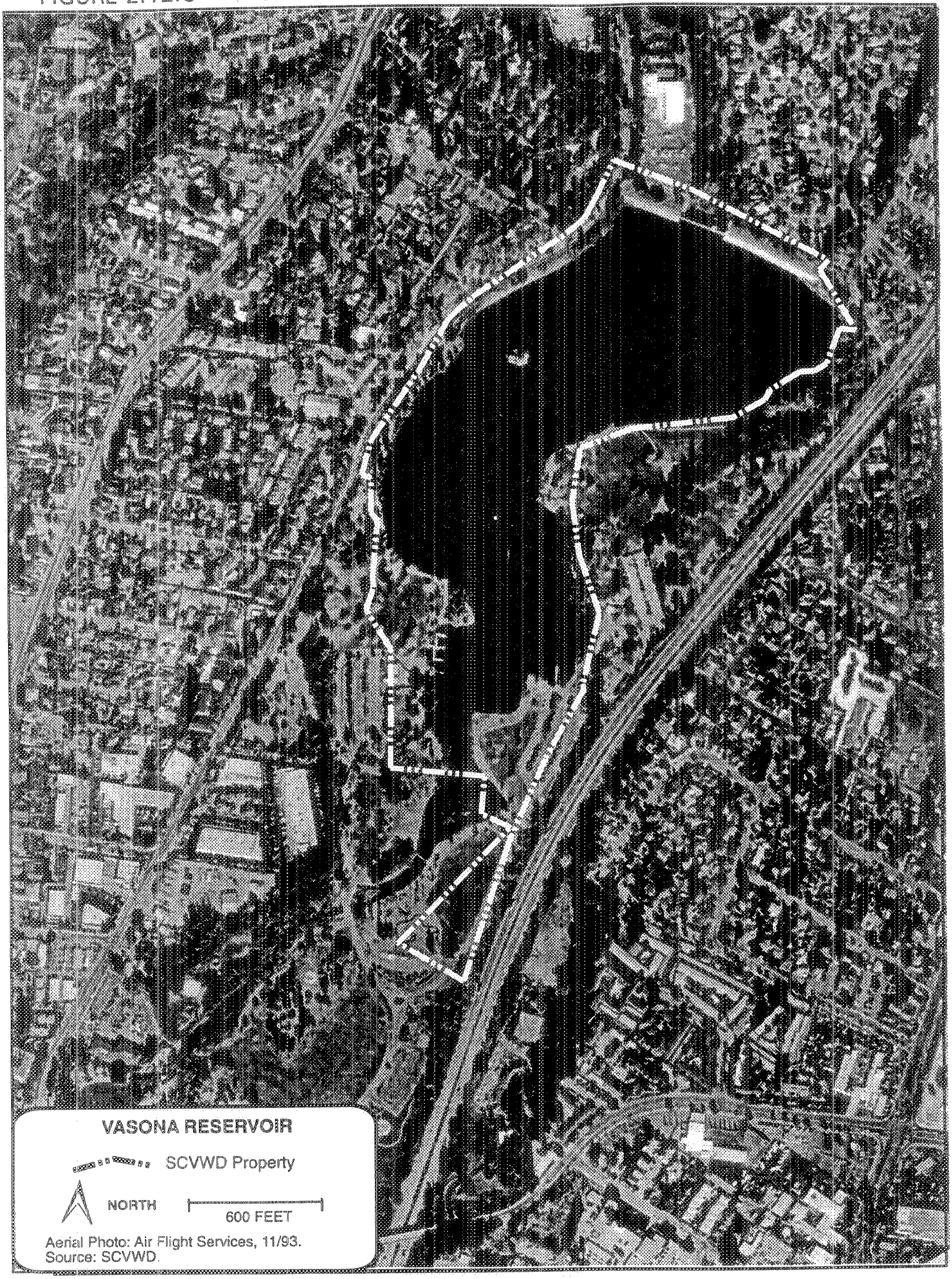
FIGURE 2.12.B -- VASONA RESERVOIR LEASE AREA



SOURCE: SCVWD, BASED ON AERIAL PHOTOGRAPH 6/93

FIGURE 2.12.C -- VASONA RESERVOIR AERIAL PHOTOGRAPH

EPRL-VA.FH3, 06/14/94, Vasona



Aerial Photo: Air Flight Services, 11/93.
Source: SCVWD.

FIGURE 2.12.D -- VASONA RESERVOIR TOPOGRAPHY

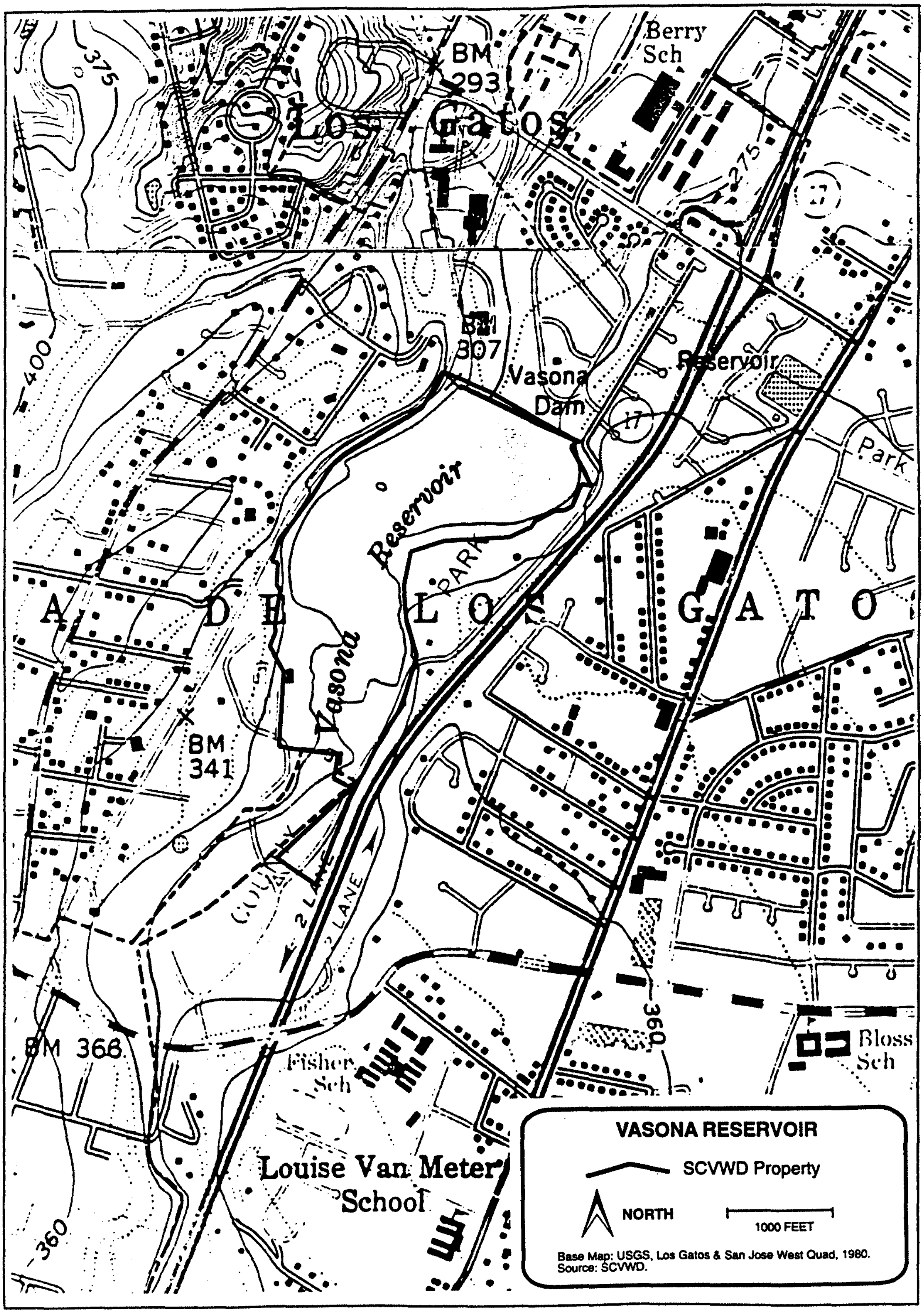
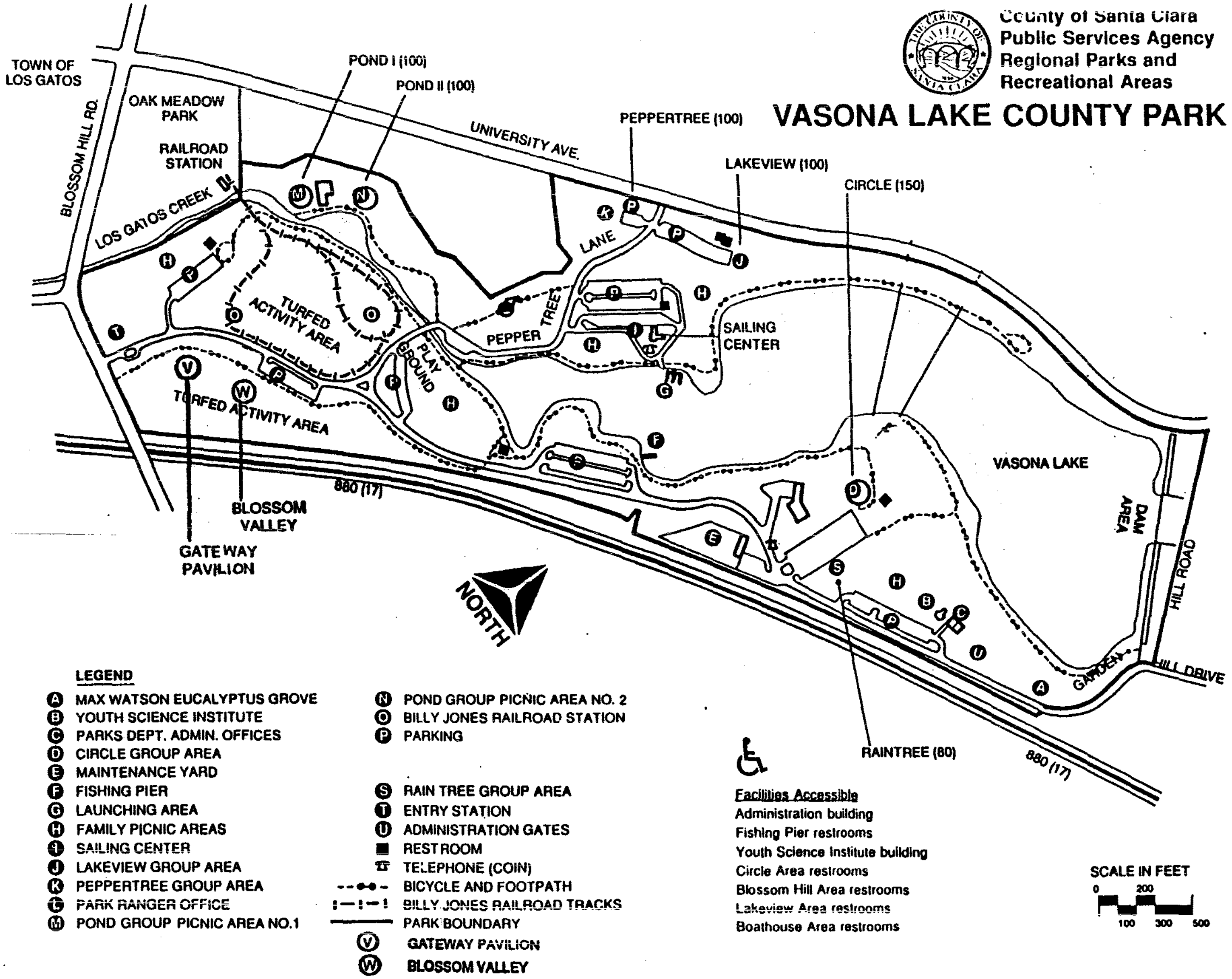


FIGURE 2.12.E -- VASONA LAKE COUNTY PARK FACILITIES



Land Use. The Park is bounded by Highway 17 to the east, single family homes to the north and northwest, apartments and single family homes to the west, light industrial to the southwest and a mix of light industrial, commercial and apartments to the south. At the southwest corner, Vasona Park is adjacent to Oak Meadow Park operated by the Town of Los Gatos.

Park Use. A highly developed County Park has been constructed at Vasona Park with the Reservoir as a focal point. Vasona Lake County Park functions as a city rather than regional park in that it is surrounded by urbanization, is easily accessible to a large population and provides a wide range of recreational opportunities to the public.

Vasona Reservoir is available for day use recreation year-round from 8 a.m. to sundown. Recreational uses allowed at Vasona Reservoir include individual and group picnicking, fishing, boating, skating, walking, field sports, bicycling, children's playground and duck feeding. Paddle and row boats are available for rent Memorial Day through Labor Day. Only non-powered boating is allowed. A boat ramp is available for the public launching of non-power boat such as kayaks, small sailboats and rafts. A concessionaire also rents kayaks from a portable stand at the southeastern corner of the lake. Vasona Lake County Park is a highly popular group day use area with eight group picnic areas available by advance reservation.

The Sailing Center is located on the west shore of the Lake and is partially in the SCVWD lease area. The Sailing Center includes the boat rental office, the boat launch, parking and family picnic areas, restrooms and public phones.

A $3.00/car fee is collected Memorial Day through the weekend closest to September 10. The remainder of the year fees are only collected on Saturday, Sunday and Holidays. There is also a year-round $3.00 boat launch fee for private boats.

Vasona Lake County Park is the most heavily visited of all the County Parks. For a six month period in 1993 (July 1, 1993 to December 31, 1993) Park staff counted a total of 61,426 vehicles and 311,019 visitors entering Vasona Lake County Park in 1993. Also counted during the six-month period were estimates of users participating in each of the following recreation activities:

picnicking	47,443
fishing	2,076
hiking/jogging	66,100
sailboating	193

SCVWD/SCCPRD
LEASE RENEWAL AGREEMENT

FINAL MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION AND INITIAL STUDY

SECTION 3.0
INITIAL STUDY CHECKLIST

SANTA CLARA VALLEY WATER DISTRICT
5750 Almaden Expressway, San Jose, CA 95118 (408) 265-2600

3.0 INITIAL STUDY CHECKLIST

SCVWD Scope Number: 5-9579-109

Project: SCVWD/SCCPRD Lease Renewal Project

Date of Checklist Preparation: August 5, 1994

Prepared by: Thomas Reid Associates

Reviewed by: Pamela John, Assistant Civil Engineer II;
Bernie Goldner, Environmental Specialist

ENVIRONMENTAL DETERMINATION

On the basis of this initial study, the project will require the following:

☒ **Negative Declaration:** The proposed project is determined not to have a significant effect on the environment, or measures to be included as part of the project will avoid or mitigate significant effects. A Negative Declaration will be prepared which specifies any necessary means for mitigating significant effects.

☐ **Environmental Impact Report:** The proposed project may have significant effect on the environment. These effects, as determined by the Initial Study and other sources, will be evaluated in an Environmental Impact Report.

ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS POTENTIALLY AFFECTED

☐ Geology and Soils
☐ Hydrology/Water Quality
☐ Plant Life
☐ Animal Life
☐ Land Use/Community Plans & Values
☐ Economics
☐ Population
☐ Housing/Relocation
☐ Transportation
☐ Public Services
☐ Utilities
☐ Energy
☐ Public Health/Safety
☐ Air Quality
☐ Noise
☐ Aesthetics
☐ Recreation
☐ Historic/Cultural Resources
☐ Natural Resources
☐ Mandatory Findings of Significance

INITIAL STUDY CHECKLIST

3.1. BACKGROUND

Project Title: SCVWD/SCCPRD Lease Renewal Project

Date of Checklist Preparation: August 5, 1994

SCVWD Scope Number: 5-9579-109

Project Location: Twelve SCVWD reservoirs and adjacent dry land holdings at the following locations:
Almaden Reservoir, Anderson Reservoir, Calero Reservoir, Chesbro Reservoir, Coyote Percolation Pond, Coyote Reservoir, Guadalupe Reservoir, Lexington Reservoir, Los Gatos Percolation Ponds, Stevens Creek Reservoir, Uvas Reservoir and Vasona Reservoir.

Project Description: See Attachments.

Environmental Setting: See Attachments.

Informal consultation was conducted with the following responsible agencies and trustee agencies: Santa Clara County Department of Parks and Recreation.

3.2. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ANALYSIS

Explanations of all answers and citations of supporting data are included on separate sheets. If impact occurs during construction or is temporary, a "C" or "T" respectively, is noted.

WILL THE PROJECT RESULT IN:	IMPACTS					
	No	Maybe	Yes			
			NS	SM	SNM	C
A. Geology and Soils						
1. Increased hazard to the public from geologic and soil features of the site (e.g., faults, landslide-prone areas, sink-holes, high shrink-swell potential, soil creep, severe erosion, etc.)?	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
2. Substantial disruptions, displacements, compaction, or impervious covering of soil?	☐	☐	☒	☐	☐	☐
3. Significant change in topography or ground relief features?	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
4. Destruction, covering, or modification of any unique geologic or physical features?	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
B. Hydrology/Water Quality						
1. Changes in currents or direction of water movements or sedimentation or erosion within the channel of a river or stream or the bed of a bay or lake?	☐	☐	☒	☐	☐	☐
2. Changes in filtration rates, sedimentation, drainage patterns, or the rate and amount of surface water run-off?	☐	☐	☒	☐	☐	☐
3. Alteration in course or flow of floodwaters?	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
4. Increase in downstream flood potential that might affect human health or cause property damage?	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
5. Change in the amount of surface water in any body of water?	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
6. Contamination or any detrimental effect on existing water quality or quantities of either surface or subsurface supplies (e.g. temperature changes, dissolved oxygen, turbidity)?	☐	☐	☒	☐	☐	☐
7. Change in the quantity of groundwaters, either through direct additions or withdrawals or through interception of an aquifer by cuts or excavations?	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

NS = Not Significant **SM** = Significant but Can be Mitigated **SNM** = Significant, No Apparent Mitigation
C = Cumulatively Significant

WILL THE PROJECT RESULT IN:	IMPACTS					
	No	Maybe	Yes			
			NS	SM	SNM	C
8. Alteration of the direction or rate of flow of groundwater?	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
9. Reduction in the amount of water otherwise available for public supplies?	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
C. Plant Life						
1. Changes in the diversity of species or numbers of any species of plants (including trees, shrubs, grasses, herbs, crops, and aquatic plants)?	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
2. Loss or deterioration of a unique botanical area, such as wetland (marsh, slough, wet meadow) or riparian (streamside) vegetation?	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
3. Reduction of the numbers of any locally unique (e.g., heritage trees) or rare, threatened, or endangered species of plants on or off the project site?	☐	☐	☒	☐	☐	☐
4. Introduction of invasive or exotic plant species into an area or result in a barrier to the normal replenishment of existing species?	☐	☐	☒	☐	☐	☐
D. Animal Life						
1. Changes in the diversity of species or numbers of any species of animals (including amphibians, reptiles, birds, mammals, fish and shellfish, benthic organisms, insects, or microfauna)?	☐	☐	☐	☒	☐	☐
2. Loss or disturbance of a colonial nesting area (e.g., tern colonies and heron rookeries) for resident or migratory birds or raptor nest sites?	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
3. Reduction of the numbers of any locally unique, rare, threatened, or endangered species of animal on or off the project site?	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

NS = Not Significant **SM** = Significant but Can be Mitigated **SNM** = Significant, No Apparent Mitigation
C = Cumulatively Significant

WILL THE PROJECT RESULT IN:	IMPACTS					
	No	Maybe	Yes			
			NS	SM	SNM	C
4. Introduction of exotic or invasive animal species into an area or result in a barrier to the migration or movement of animals?	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
5. Loss or deterioration of existing fish or wildlife habitat?	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
E. Land Use/Community Plans and Values						
1. Any substantial changes in the present land use, either on or off the project site?	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
2. Alteration or nonconformance with regional, federal, state, or local land use or environmental plans and policies of the project vicinity?	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
3. Conflict or inconsistency with adopted zoning, policies, plans and goals of the community in the project vicinity?	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
4. Deterioration of the surrounding neighborhoods' integrity or quality (e.g., loss of privacy or security to residents over the long term)?	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
5. Conflict with established agriculture, recreational, educational, religious, or scientific uses in the project area?	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
F. Economics						
1. Economic or population growth, either directly or indirectly, in the project vicinity (especially if faster than planned)?	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
2. Removal of a major constraint or obstacle to growth?	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
3. Decreased employment in the surrounding community?	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
4. Reduced acreage or yield of an agricultural crop or prime farmlands?	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

NS = Not Significant **SM** = Significant but Can be Mitigated **SNM** = Significant, No Apparent Mitigation
C = Cumulatively Significant

WILL THE PROJECT RESULT IN:	IMPACTS					
	No	Maybe	Yes			
			NS	SM	SNM	C
G. Population						
1. Alteration of the location, distribution, character, density, or growth rate of the surrounding human population?	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
H. Housing/Relocation						
1. Displacement of existing housing or businesses in the project vicinity?	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
2. Demand for additional housing in the project vicinity?	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
3. Changes in the type or cost of housing in the project vicinity	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
I. Transportation						
1. Adverse impact upon existing transportation systems including the generation of substantial additional vehicular traffic?	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
2. Reduction in existing parking facilities or create a demand for new parking?	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
3. Alterations to present patterns of circulation or movement of people and/or goods?	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
4. Increase in traffic hazards to motor vehicles, bicyclists, or pedestrians from design features (e.g. sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g. farm equipment)?	☐	☐	☒	☐	☐	☐
5. Interference with access to commercial establishments, schools, parks, etc.?	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
6. Conflicts with adopted policies supporting alternative transportation (e.g. bus turnouts, bicycle racks)?	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
J. Public Services						
1. Need for new or altered governmental services in any of the following areas:						
a. Fire protection?	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
b. Police protection	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

NS = Not Significant **SM** = Significant but Can be Mitigated **SNM** = Significant, No Apparent Mitigation
C = Cumulatively Significant

WILL THE PROJECT RESULT IN:	IMPACTS					
	No	Maybe	Yes			
			NS	SM	SNM	C
c. School facilities?	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
d. Parks/recreation facilities?	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
e. Maintenance of public facilities (streets, highways, public transit, etc.)?	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
f. Flood protection?	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
g. Other governmental services?	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
K. Utilities						
1. Need for new systems or alterations to the following utilities systems:						
a. Electricity?	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
b. Natural gas?	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
c. Communications systems?	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
d. Water treatment or distribution?	☐	☐	☒	☐	☐	☐
e. Sewer or septic tanks?	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
f. Storm water drainage?	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
g. Solid waste disposal?	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
L. Energy						
1. Use of substantial amounts of fuel or energy?	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
2. Substantial increased demand upon existing sources of energy or require the development of new energy sources?	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
3. Removal of vegetation capable of providing summer shade to a building?	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
4. Obstruction of solar access to adjacent properties?	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
5. Conflict with adopted energy conservation plans?	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
M. Public Health and Safety						
1. Creation of any known or potential human health or safety hazard?	☐	☐	☐	☒	☐	☐

NS = Not Significant **SM** = Significant but Can be Mitigated **SNM** = Significant, No Apparent Mitigation
C = Cumulatively Significant

WILL THE PROJECT RESULT IN:	IMPACTS					
	No	Maybe	Yes			
			NS	SM	SNM	C
2. Exposure of people to existing health hazards?	☐	☐	☐	☒	☐	☐
3. Application, use, disposal, or risk of explosion or the release of toxic or hazardous materials?	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
4. Possible interference with an emergency response plan or an emergency evacuation plan?	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
5. Increased fire hazard in areas with flammable brush, grass or trees?	☐	☐	☒	☐	☐	☐
N. Air Quality						
1. Violate any air quality standard or contribute to an existing or projected air quality violation?	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
2. Expose sensitive receptors to pollutants?	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
2. Creation of objectionable odors?	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
3. Major alteration of air movement, moisture, or temperature, or any change in climate, either locally or regionally?	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
O. Noise						
1. Increase in existing noise levels during construction or operations to the extent that it would create an annoyance to existing or future residents in the project vicinity?	☐	☐	☒	☐	☐	☐
2. Exposure of people to unusually high noise level?	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
P. Aesthetics						
1. Reduction of quality, obstruction, or elimination of any scenic vista or view open to the public?	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
2. Creation of an aesthetically offensive site or structure open to public view?	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
3. Generation of new lighting or glare?	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

NS = Not Significant **SM** = Significant but Can be Mitigated **SNM** = Significant, No Apparent M
C = Cumulatively Significant

WILL THE PROJECT RESULT IN:	IMPACTS					
	No	Maybe	Yes			
			NS	SM	SNM	C
Q. Recreation						
1. Location of a project on, within, or near a public or private park, wildlife preserve, scenic highway, or trail designation (including those proposed for the future)?	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
2. Reduced quality or quantity of existing recreational opportunities (e.g., birding, hiking, fishing, bicycling)?	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
R. Archaeological/Historical/Cultural Resources						
1. Location of a project in an area of potential archaeological or paleontological resources?	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
2. Alteration, disruption, or destruction of a known archaeological or historic site, building, structure, or object of historic or cultural significance to a community or ethnic or social group; or a paleontological site?	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
3. Physical change which would affect unique ethnic or cultural values?	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
4. Restriction of existing religious or sacred uses?	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
S. Natural Resources						
1. Substantial increase in or wasteful consumption of a nonrenewable resource such as minerals, precious metals, prime agricultural land, natural gas, oil, etc.?	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

NS = Not Significant **SM** = Significant but Can be Mitigated **SNM** = Significant, No Apparent Mitigation
C = Cumulatively Significant

WILL THE PROJECT RESULT IN:	IMPACTS					
	No	Maybe	Yes			
			NS	SM	SNM	C
T. Mandatory Findings of Significance						
Will the Project:						
1. Have the potential to degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal, or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California prehistory or history?	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
2. Have the potential to achieve short-term environmental goals to the disadvantage of long-term environmental goals? (A short-term impact on the environment is one which occurs in a relatively brief, definitive period of time, while long-term impacts will endure well into the future.)	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
3. Have the impacts which are individually limited but cumulatively considerable? ("Cumulatively considerable" means the incremental effects of an individual project are considerable when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, other current projects, and probable future projects.)	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
4. Have environmental impacts which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

Pamela John
Assistant Civil Engineer II

Dr. Bernie Goldner
Environmental Specialist

NS = Not Significant **SM** = Significant but Can be Mitigated **SNM** = Significant, No Apparent Mitigation
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SCVWD/SCCPRD
LEASE RENEWAL AGREEMENT

FINAL MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION AND INITIAL STUDY

SECTION 4.0
RESPONSES TO CHECKLIST

4.A. GEOLOGY AND SOILS

1. Increased hazard to the public from geologic and soil features of the site (e.g., faults, landslide-prone areas, sink-holes, high shrink-swell potential, soil creep, severe erosion, etc.)?

All Parks: The proposed project, the continuation of recreational use on SCVWD lands and reservoirs, proposes no changes to the physical environment of the lease areas but proposes the continuation of existing conditions. No increase in hazard to the public would result from project approval. If any currently hazardous conditions exist, the threat to public safety would continue at those locations. According to CEQA, a geology impact would be considered significant if the proposed project (the lease renewal) would "expose people or structures to major geologic hazards" (CEQA, Appendix G(r)).

The Santa Clara County General Plan includes policies aimed at protecting the public from geologic hazards. Relevant policies include:

PS 15(B): *..no structure for high voluntary occupancy (theaters, churches, offices) shall be approved in areas of high seismic hazard or high potential for ground failure of any type.*

PS 15(C): *No new building site shall be erected across a hazardous fault trace or on an active landslide.*

PS 16: *In areas of high potential for activation of landslides, there shall be no avoidable alteration of the land which is likely to increase the hazard, including concentration of water through drainage or septic systems, removal of vegetative cover, and no steepening of slopes and undercutting the base of a slope.*

Geologic hazards most typically affect public safety when structures built in hazardous areas collapse during seismic events or as a result of a slope failures. On the shores of large bodies of water, structures can be inundated or damaged by seiche wave action. Gradual geologic processes, such as high shrink-swell potential, soil subsidence and soil creep, can weaken the integrity of buildings and present hazards to public safety if the structure collapses. Within the lease area, recent structures such as park offices and restrooms have been built to the standards of the Uniform Building Code and are used by the public only on an incidental basis. There are no structures in the lease area for public lodging or renting or which support public meetings. This type of geologic hazard would not be significant project impact within the lease area.

These gradual geologic processes can damage park roads and facilities and require regular maintenance to allow continued public access. This would not be considered a major public safety hazard as defined by CEQA as facilities would be restricted for public access when unsafe conditions are present and no vital public service would be curtailed.

Major geologic hazards to the public safety in a park setting would include: rapid slope failures such as landslides and debris flows, which could impact day use or camping areas; seismically-induced impacts such as slope failures, rockfalls, tree falls, ground-shaking, surface ruptures, landslide splash and seiche waves. Severe ground-shaking or surface rupture could result in dam failure, a major hazard to anyone on a dam and downstream from a dam if partial or full failure should occur.

Many of the lease lands and reservoirs are in areas that contain severe geotechnical constraints such as steep slopes, active landsliding, highly erosive soils and proximity to earthquake faults. Presence of those geologic constraints is one reason that areas may have originally been set aside for recreational uses which cause minimal disturbance to the natural environment.

In park settings, visitors are concentrated in the most developed areas where services are available and the least dense visitation occurs in the least developed areas with few or no improvements. Hazard analysis focuses on these more developed areas where visitor populations would typically be greatest.

Hazard analysis in the San Francisco Bay Area focuses on damages to the constructed environment from severe ground shaking, surface rupture, seismically-induced landslides or failures of saturated slopes. The probability for a large magnitude earthquake to occur on one of the three principal Bay Area faults in the next 30 years ranges from 67% to 90%. Hazard analysis of the lease areas focuses on damage to the constructed environment such as dams, spillways, roads, restrooms and parking areas.

Almaden Reservoir: Recreational activity at Almaden Reservoir is limited to fishing from the lakeshore and picnicking or short hikes. The more popular areas are the dam, the shoreline directly south of the dam and access points from pulloffs along Alamitos Road on the northern shore of the Reservoir.

Almaden Reservoir is underlain by undifferentiated Franciscan formation. A large, highly sheared serpentine bedrock unit lies upslope of the northwest portion of the reservoir (Cooper Clark & Associates 1974). Landsliding has occurred along the cut slopes on the north side of Alamitos Road. Oversteepened slopes, particularly on the roadway north of the dam, could be activated during a seismic event or heavy rains (EOA, Inc. 1989). This could affect block access to the Reservoir from the east but does not represent a major geologic hazard to public safety.

The San Jose Geotechnical Investigation (Cooper Clark & Associates 1974) mapped the Sargent-Berrocal fault zone, a fault considered inactive by the State but potentially active by the County, as trending northwest to southeast across the location of Almaden Reservoir. This fault is not included on the Preliminary Fault Activity Map of California (Division of Mines and Geology 1992) which identifies faults suspected of activity from the Quaternary period to the present. There was no major damage to the Almaden Reservoir dam resulting from the 1989 Loma Prieta Earthquake. The bedrock underlying the Reservoir would not be susceptible to liquefaction (Power 1992). Almaden Reservoir dam would be subject to impacts from seismic activity occurring on any of the seismically-active faults in the San Francisco Bay Area. The Division of Safety of Dams (DSOD) conducts an inspection of Almaden Reservoir dam on an annual basis to evaluate the performance of the dam (M. Zumat, DSOD).

The southern central slopes of the reservoir are rated as having a very high potential for landslide (Cooper Clark & Associates 1974). This steeply sloped area, which may be an older landslide deposit, is not accessible from Alamitos Road. As boating is not allowed in the Reservoir, the south central lakeshore would be accessible only by cross-country hiking. There are no significant geologic hazards which would threaten public safety identified for this area.

There are no significant geologic hazards present in the lease area of Almaden Reservoir which pose a significant hazard to park visitors.

Anderson Reservoir: Recreational activities at Anderson Reservoir are focused in three main areas: group picnic areas downstream of the dam along Coyote Creek, the boat launching area at the southern side of the dam, and the Woodchoppers Flat day use area on the eastern side of the Reservoir north of the Cochrane Bridge (see Figure 2.2.E).

Anderson Reservoir area is underlain primarily by complexly folded sedimentary rocks of the Beryessa, Santa Clara and Franciscan formations. The lower picnic area and the Holiday Lakes Estates community is primarily underlain by serpentine ultramafic bedrock of the Franciscan assemblage. The boat-in day use area, most of the reservoir and the eastern hills are underlain by the more recent Santa Clara formation, made up of partially lithified sands and gravels (Power, et al., 1993 and Wagner, et al. 1990).

Severe traces of the seismically-active Calaveras fault cross the southern end of Anderson Reservoir and are mapped by the State as within a Species Studies Zone (under the Alquist-Priolo Special Studies Zone Act) requiring detailed geologic investigations for any proposed construction. The extreme southeastern lakeshore of the Reservoir, east of the Calaveras fault, is underlain by bedrock of the Berryessa formation composed of marine sandstone and shale (Power, et al., 1993 and Wagner, et al., 1990).

The terminus of the Silver Creek fault has been approximately located 1400 feet northwest of the Anderson Dam (Power et al., 1992). Once mapped as within a Special Studies Zone, the Silver Creek fault was not proven to have been active in the Holocene era (last 10,000 years) and the area was removed from Special Studies Zone mapping in 1982 and is no longer considered to be an active fault (P. Wong, CDMG).

Numerous landslides, both active and dormant, are deposited on the steep slopes that ring the Reservoir. The east-facing slopes above the boat-in area contain many active landslide deposits as does the southeastern shore of the Reservoir in the vicinity of Woodchoppers Flat. The Calaveras fault trace crosses the slopes above and to the north of the Woodchoppers Flat Picnic Area. The exact location of the fault on this slope is obscured by massive landslides deposits. These deposits have become reactivated in recent years but have been characterized by slow, creeping motion which can be monitored. These large landslide deposits do not present a hazard to public safety (B. Tepel, SCVWD; USGS 1982).

The west-facing slope of the foothill ridge overlooking the Toyon Picnic area is primarily serpentine bedrock. A small landslide is mapped above the Picnic Area on the west-facing slope just north of the dam. Due to the presence of steep, sheared slopes, the high erodibility of soils and the proximity to seismically active faults, the lease area has a high susceptibility to ground-shaking which could trigger numerous landslides (Coyle and Associates, no year, cited in Planning Collaborative ADEIR).

A 1974 report on seismic hazard potential in the County found a low potential for earthquake-generated seiche (standing waves) at Anderson Reservoir and a higher than average potential for wave splash to occur if a large landslide were to slide rapidly into the water (Rogers and Williams 1974). Landslide splash could occur if a rapidly moving earthquake slides into a body of water, quickly displacing reservoir water and creating a wave which may run up onto the shore or overtop a dam.

The source area with the greatest potential for generating a landslide which could result in a splash wave is the steep slopes north of the Cochrane Bridge on the east side of the Reservoir. This area has been the source of landslides in the past and has been mapped as the approximate location of the Calaveras fault. Effects of a rapid landslide into the Reservoir would only be local in nature. The resultant wave would move in the direction generated (roughly north/south). North of the bridge the width of the Reservoir doubles in size, dissipating the strength of the wave. The wave would probably not impact the Woodchoppers Flat day use area, 2000 feet north of the Bridge (Bob Tepel, SCVWD).

No overtopping of the dam would be expected as a result of landslide splash as: the dam is off on a western arm of the Reservoir and not in the direction of travel of the wave; the dam is approximately 2.5 miles from the landslide source area and wave energy would be dissipated; there is approximately 15 feet of freeboard at the dam to accommodate run-up. More typically, a landslide occurring in the area north of the Cochrane Bridge would be slow-moving and the creeping of the mass could be monitored. If a rapid landslide occurred, splash wave impacts would not be significant due to the size of the reservoir and the distance from the landslide source area to areas with recreational facilities such as Woodchoppers, Flat or the dam (Bob Tepel, SCVWD).

The effects of the Loma Prieta Earthquake on Leroy Anderson Dam at Anderson Reservoir were addressed in a report prepared by the University of California, Berkeley, Earthquake Engineering Research Center (1990). Strong motion detectors are emplaced in Anderson Dam and have registered ground acceleration from two earthquakes:

	1984 Morgan Hill Earthquake	1989 Loma Prieta Earthquake
distance from epicenter	10 miles	16 miles
peak horizontal ground acceleration	0.41 g at toe of dam 0.63 g at dam crest	0.23 g at toe of dam 0.43 g at dam crest
duration	8 to 12 seconds	8 to 12 seconds

Similar types of damage were noted at the dam after each of the two earthquakes. The strong ground shaking produced extensive, shallow longitudinal cracks in the fill along the dam crest. The widest of the cracks were approximately 1.5 inches. The dam crest vertical settlement ranged from 0.5 inches to 1.8 inches. The EERC report concluded that "These cracks appear to pose no threat to the stability of the embankment and the overall performance of the dam thus appears to have been very good." Repairs to the dam were effected by SCVWD.

Anderson Reservoir would be subject to impacts from seismic activity occurring on the Calaveras fault which crosses the southern end of the Reservoir or any of the seismically-active faults in the San Francisco Bay Area. The San Andreas fault zone is approximately 14.5 miles west of the dam site and the Hayward fault is approximately 24 miles to the north. The DSOD conducts an inspection of Almaden Reservoir dam on an annual basis to evaluate the performance of the dam (M. Zumat, DSOD). The dam is instrumented and monitored by the SCVWD on a daily basis by the SCVWD to assess dam performance.

The lease area is rated as having a very low potential for liquefaction with the exception of the recent alluvial sediments in the lower picnic area where groundwater may be less than 10 feet deep where the liquefaction potential was rated as high (Power et al., 1992). The only structure in that area is a small, permanent restroom built to code specifications subject to only incidental use. No significant hazard to public safety would result from liquefaction of sediments in the lower picnic area.

Site inspection of the lease area lands found evidence of minor erosion occurring due to use of volunteer trails, particularly in the lower picnic area and dam face. One volunteer trail marked by a post with a horseshoe leads straight up the dam face opposite the entrance to the Park from Cochrane Road. SCCPRD has plans to close this particular trail thereby reducing potential erosion (A. LaFleur, SCCPRD). Impacts from erosion in these areas is not considered significant.

There are no significant geologic hazards present in the lease area of Anderson Reservoir which pose a significant hazard to park visitors.

Calero Reservoir: Recreational facilities at Calero Reservoir are focused in two areas: the boat launching/picnic area on the north shore and the Calero Ranch Stables at the southeastern end of the Reservoir.

Bedrock underlying Calero Reservoir and adjacent lease lands is composed of undifferentiated Franciscan rocks with scattered areas of serpentine intrusions. Alluvium deposits of gravel, sand and clay are present along stream channels such as in the area of Calero Ranch Stables (Cooper Clark & Associates 1974). The San Andreas fault zone is approximately 7 miles southwest of the Reservoir. The Sargent fault, also considered active, is a branch of the San Andreas and is 5 miles southwest of the Reservoir. Two traces of the northwest-trending, inactive Calero fault cross the site; the dam is astride one of the fault traces. There is no record of Holocene activity along the Calero fault (past 10,000 years). The Calero fault intersects the Shannon fault 0.5 miles north of the Reservoir. Evidence of Quaternary activity (last 1.6 million years) has been recorded for the Shannon fault (Jennings 1992).

Though the Calero fault is thought to be inactive, a seismic event along another fault could produce sympathetic movement along the Calero fault (CH2M Hill 1992). However, seismic events affecting the site would more probably originate on the seismically-active faults in the San Francisco Bay Area. The DSOD conducts an inspection of Calero Reservoir dam on an annual basis to evaluate the performance of the dam (M. Zumat, DSOD). The dam is instrumented and monitored by the SCVWD on a daily basis by the SCVWD to assess dam performance. No major damage was recorded for Calero Reservoir following the 1989 Loma Prieta earthquake (B. Tepel, SCVWD).

The lease area was rated as having a very low potential for liquefaction with the exception of the more recent fluvial sediments where groundwater would be less than 10 feet deep. These fluvial sediments are primarily found in the small drainages leading into the Reservoir just north of the Baily-Fellows House at Calero Ranch Stables and at Calero Creek downstream from the dam. In the event of a large magnitude earthquake, structures at the stables could sustain damage. The Baily-Fellows House is raised approximately 3 feet from ground level on a redwood beam foundation. The foundation could be the original constructed with the house in 1860 and, if so, has withstood numerous earthquakes in the past 130 years. Following the 1989 Loma Prieta earthquake, the interior of the house suffered damage such as cracked walls and separated wallpaper but no damage to the foundation was recorded (M. Frederick, SCCPRD).

Landsliding is primarily confined to the steep slopes above the coves at the southwestern end of the Reservoir and the north-facing slope on the opposite shore from the boat launch area. Recreational use in this area is confined to the Cherry Cove hiking trail.

Site inspection of the lease area lands found evidence of minor erosion occurring due to horseback riders leaving the designated trail that skirts the southern shore of the Reservoir and riding along the shoreline. Interpretive signing may discourage the occasional off-trail use and increase awareness for the prohibition. Impacts from erosion in these areas is not considered significant.

There are no significant geologic hazards present in the lease area of Calero Reservoir which pose a significant hazard to park visitors.

Chesbro Reservoir. Recreational activities at Chesbro Reservoir occur primarily near the dam, the boat launching area and on the shore below scattered roadside pullouts along Oak Glen Road.

The lease area north of Chesbro Reservoir is primarily underlain by Franciscan sandstone, shale and greenstone bedrock. Much of the southern shore and land on both sides of the dam is underlain by serpentine rock, also of the Franciscan Complex. No fault traces are recorded within the lease area (Jennings 1992; Wagner et al., 1990). Chesbro Reservoir is approximately 7 miles northeast of the San Andreas fault and 7 miles southwest of the Calaveras fault. Liquefaction would not be a potential impact as the area is underlain by bedrock (Power et al., 1992). Several small landslides are recorded for the lands above Oak Glen Road and outside of the lease area. The slopes are rated as having a high to moderate susceptibility for landslides (Cooper Clark & Associates 1974). This area above Oak Glen Road is outside of the lease area but landslides could impact access to the Park.

Following the 1989 Loma Prieta Earthquake, inspection of Chesbro Reservoir dam found longitudinal cracking along the edge of the dam crest on the upstream side near an area where a cut had been made to affect a repair to an adjacent slope. Maximum settlement of the dam crest was approximately 0.4 feet. The degree and width of the longitudinal cracking is considered minor and "preliminary studies suggest that this damage poses no significant risk to the overall stability of these embankments" (EERC 1990).

Site inspection of the lease area lands found evidence of minor erosion occurring due to use of volunteer trails used to access the Reservoir from pullouts along Oak Glen Road. The SCVWD has agreed to install barriers which would limit the number of pullouts available and consequently, limit the number of volunteer trails used on a regular basis. This should reduce the amount of trail cutting on the steep slopes on the north shore of the Reservoir.

There are no significant geologic hazards present in the lease area of Chesbro Reservoir which pose a significant hazard to park visitors.

Coyote Percolation Pond: There is no recreation currently allowed at the Coyote Percolation Pond within the Coyote Creek County Park. South of Coyote Percolation Pond and north of Metcalf Road, a concessionaire operates a fishing concession on an adjacent pond within SCCPRD property. In the future, the percolation pond could be used by groups on a permit basis for special events (D. Logan, SCCPRD).

Coyote Percolation Pond overlays gravel and sand deposits of the Coyote Creek stream channel (Cooper Clark & Associates 1974). The seismically active San Andreas, Calaveras and Hayward faults lie 18 miles west, 5 miles to the northeast and 4 miles to the northeast, respectively. There is no evidence for Holocene seismic activity for the Silver Creek fault which is approximately 1.8 miles northeast of the site.

The pond area is rated as having a high potential for liquefaction, the more common rating for alluvial deposits with groundwater at less than 10 feet deep. Older alluvial sediments underlying the residential community south of the percolation pond as well as sections of the Coyote Creek County Park adjacent to the percolation pond are rated as having a low potential for liquefaction as groundwater is at depths greater than 10 feet. The only structure in the lease area is a metal dam at the north of the percolation pond which releases from below as well as over the top. There is no historical record of evidence of liquefaction within the Park area.

There are no significant geologic hazards present in the lease area of Coyote Percolation Pond which pose a significant hazard to park visitors.

Coyote Reservoir: Recreational facilities at Coyote Reservoir are concentrated on the western shoreline. The eastern shoreline is designated as a wildlife area and access is restricted. Much of the western shoreline can be easily accessed though the more popular areas are the Lake View Campground and Picnic Area at the southern end of the Reservoir, the Sandy Beach Picnic Area and Boat Launch areas midway on the shoreline with fewer visitors using the pullouts and primitive picnic areas to the north closest to the dam.

Coyote Reservoir trends northwest through a narrow valley formed by the creek channel of the now-inundated Coyote Creek. The valley is also bisected by parallel traces of the northwest trending seismically-active Calaveras fault. Both traces are mapped as underlying the Coyote Reservoir Dam. Concealed by the Reservoir, the fault traces traverse 3/4 of the length of the Reservoir. Mapping of the western-most trace continues near the boat launch ramp while the easterly trace exits further south near the Lake View Campground (USGS 1982). Other fault traces associated with the Calaveras fault lie east of the Reservoir. The San Andreas fault is approximately 12 miles southwest of Coyote Reservoir ((Wagner et al., 1991).

The western shore of the Reservoir is composed of isolated areas of Berryessa Formation, graywacke sandstone of the Franciscan formation, Pliocene Basalts, Plio-pleistocene nonmarine deposits and isolated outcroppings of Franciscan serpentine. The entrance area of the Park is underlain by older alluvium deposits. The east shore of the fault are Upper Cretaceous marine sedimentary bedrock of the Berryessa Formation which is also found on the slopes just southwest of the dam (Habitat Restoration Group 1989; Wagner et al., 1991).

Landslides are present on both slopes adjacent to the Reservoir. The slopes to the west are more gradual than those to the east, perhaps due to previous landsliding activity. Many of the landslides may have been seismically-induced and now exhibit the offset of faulting (Habitat Restoration Group 1989). Landslides identified on the slopes above Coyote Reservoir range in volume from 40 cubic meters to 1.1 million cubic meters.

The area of greatest concern was the eastern cutslope above the right abutment and spillway area of the dam. Landslides induced by storm runoff blocked the spillway on several occasions. Repairs to the slope were affected in 1977, stabilizing the improperly finished cutslope (B. Tepel, SCVWD). A series of more stable, inactive large landslides are found on the gentler slopes west of the Reservoir. Landslide mapping and an assessment of the stability of these deposits was recently completed for the SCVWD and confirmed that the larger landslides west of the dam are dormant. If reactivated, the deposits would be expected to move in a slow, creeping movement. Before any deposit could reach the Reservoir, Coyote Park Road would first be blocked by these deposits if reactivated. These slopes are routinely inspected after rainstorms for indications of reactivation (B. Tepel, SCVWD).

In a 1974 report addressing potential seismic hazards, Coyote Reservoir was identified as having the potential to fail as a result of ground displacement in the event of a large magnitude earthquake on the Calaveras fault. The magnitude 6.2 Morgan Hill earthquake of 1984 was centered 16 miles north of the Reservoir on the Calaveras fault and rupture was spread along an 18-mile segment. The Coyote Dam is located near the southern extremity of the rupture, where the strongest shaking was concentrated (Habitat Restoration Group 1989). Damage to Coyote Dam was considered minor and consisted of cracks on the upstream dam face, the crest of the dam and the spillway area.

The presence of the Calaveras fault was known when the dam was constructed in 1936. Consequently the dam was constructed very conservatively (B. Tepel, SCVWD). An impermeable clay core was sheathed with numerous shells of coarse materials such as sands and gravels. The width of the dam crest was greatly increased from a more standard 20-30 foot width to a width of approximately 100 feet. Deformation of the clay dam interior would result in gravels and sands falling into and blocking the cracks. A seismic stability evaluation completed in 1977 concluded that the dam could withstand a magnitude 7.5 earthquake on the Calaveras fault without catastrophic release of water. The USGS has postulated that this magnitude of earthquake could occur on the Calaveras fault (Habitat Restoration Group 1989).

At the direction of the California DSOD, the SCVWD maintains the reservoir at a 50% capacity in case of dam failure. In addition, Anderson Reservoir, downstream of Coyote Reservoir, is maintained with sufficient capacity to contain the capacity of Coyote Reservoir should dam failure occur (Rogers and Williams 1974; D. Pierce, SCCPRD). A study completed by the SCVWD in 1985 concluded that failure of Coyote Dam would not result in an overtopping of Anderson Dam. The same study found that a worst-case scenario design storm could have more severe impacts than a failure of Coyote Dam. Based on the conclusions of that study, Anderson dam spillway was enlarged and the crest of the dam raised to 640 feet in the late 1980's (A. Saah, SCVWD).

Coyote Reservoir was identified as having some of the parameters required to produce an earthquake-generated seiche or standing wave. Requirements include deep water, steep straight sides and a thick layer of unconsolidated sediment on the reservoir bottom. When full, Coyote Reservoir has deep water, a steep east side but only a thin layer of sediment on the reservoir bottom. It is postulated that wave run-up on the western, developed shore would be less than on the steep eastern shore as the irregularity and gradual slope of the western shore would dissipate wave energy (Rogers and Williams 1974).

The DSOD conducts an inspection of Coyote Reservoir dam on an annual basis to evaluate the performance of the dam (M. Zumat, DSOD). The dam is instrumented and monitored by the SCVWD on a daily basis by the SCVWD to assess dam performance and changes in water level. No major damage was recorded for Coyote Reservoir following the 1989 Loma Prieta earthquake (B. Tepel, SCVWD).

There are no significant geologic hazards present in the lease area of Almaden Reservoir which pose a significant hazard to park visitors.

Guadalupe Reservoir: Recreational activities at Guadalupe Reservoir are limited to access points from road pullouts along Hicks Road on the south side of the Reservoir. There is no officially designated parking area. No boating is allowed.

The main trace of the San Andreas fault zone lies approximately 6 miles southeast of Guadalupe Reservoir. The Calaveras fault is roughly 12 miles to the northeast. A trace of the Berrocal fault cuts through the upper half of the Reservoir entering at the east side of the dam and trending northwest/southeast (Power et al., 1992). There is no evidence that the Berrocal fault has been active during the Holocene period though late Quaternary activity is documented for segments of the fault (Jennings 1992).

Bedrock surrounding Guadalupe Reservoir is primarily Franciscan greenstone with a serpentine outcropping on the eastern shore of southern end (Wagner et al., 1991). Bedrock conditions indicate a very low potential for liquefaction (Power et al., 1992). There are several small landslides mapped on the slopes on the eastern side of the reservoir (Cooper Clark & Associates 1974). This area is inaccessible to the public.

The effects of the Loma Prieta Earthquake on Guadalupe Reservoir dam were discussed in the 1990 EERC report. Guadalupe Reservoir is approximately 11.5 miles north of the epicenter of the Loma Prieta Earthquake. The dam was probably subjected to peak horizontal accelerations on the order of 0.4 g to 0.5 g. Strong ground shaking from the earthquake produced minor transverse cracking in each abutment and minor vertical crest settlement of 0.6 feet. The report noted that damage might have been more severe if reservoir levels had been higher and dam materials more saturated or if ground-shaking from the magnitude 7.1 earthquake had been of longer duration. An upstream berm constructed in 1972 to improve the seismic stability of the dam may have been instrumental in limiting the damage to the crest of the dam. EERC concluded that the performance of this dam "appears to have been good".

Guadalupe Dam is inspected annually by the California DSOD and is instrumented to provide information on a daily basis regarding dam performance and changes in reservation water level.

There are no significant geologic hazards present in the lease area of Guadalupe Reservoir which pose a significant hazard to park visitors.

Lexington Reservoir: Recreational activities at Lexington Reservoir are focused in three main areas: the dam face, the boat launch area and the day use/picnic area (see Figure 2.8.E). The eastern shore is accessible by trails leading from pullouts along Alma Bridge Road. The southwest shore is a private residential community.

The main trace of the San Andreas fault zone trends northwest/southeast to the west of Lexington Reservoir and crosses just south of the end of the Reservoir and continues south through the communities of Chemeketa Park and Holy City. The angle of the fault is such that near the main park entrance road at Highway 17 the fault trace is approximately 8000 feet to the west while at the southern end of the Reservoir the fault is only 1000 feet to the west (USGS 1991). A parallel trace north of the main trace of the San Andreas is mapped as crossing the southern end of Oakmont Drive on the western shore of the Reservoir (Power et al., 1992).

Bedrock east of the San Andreas in this area is of the Franciscan complex and consists of sandstone, shale, conglomerates and greenstone (Wagner et al., 1991). Sections of the northern shoreline are Santa Clara formation--poorly consolidated conglomerates, sandstones and shale of Pliocene age (Helley and Brabb 1971). The large Black Road landslide makes up the majority of the western shore of the Reservoir and was deposited approximately 180,000 years ago. The toe of the slide is beneath the waters of Lexington Reservoir. A smaller ancient landslide is located on the slopes just above the dam on the eastern shore (Earthmetrics 1986).

The effects of the Loma Prieta Earthquake on Lexington Reservoir dam were also addressed in the EERC report issued in 1990. Lexington Reservoir is approximately 13.5 miles north of the epicenter of the Loma Prieta Earthquake. At the time of the 1989 earthquake, Lexington Reservoir was 100 feet below the maximum reservoir level. The dam was instrumented with strong motion detectors in three locations which registered peak horizontal accelerations on ranging from approximately 0.4 g to 0.45 g. Strong ground shaking from the earthquake produced isolated transverse cracking typically 3 to 5 feet deep. Minor crest deformation of 0.9 feet vertical settlement and 0.25 feet of lateral displacement in the downstream direction also occurred. The report noted that damage might have been more severe had the water level been higher in the reservoir and dam materials more saturated or if ground-shaking from the magnitude 7.1 earthquake had been of longer duration. This degree of damage is considered minor cracking and there were no indications of potential instability (EERC 1990).

There are no significant geologic hazards present in the lease area of Lexington Reservoir which pose a significant hazard to park visitors.

Los Gatos Percolation Ponds: Recreational activities at Los Gatos Percolation Ponds are diffuse and occur throughout the parcel. Levees and trails of the Los Gatos Creek Park allow park visitors access to nearly all lands within the lease area.

Situated in the Los Gatos Creek floodplain, the underlying bedrock unit of the Los Gatos Percolation Ponds is Quaternary alluvium laid down by the Creek. No identified earthquake faults cross the Park area. The Shannon fault has been mapped as approximately 5000 feet south of the Park boundary (Power et al., 1992). The Shannon fault is considered an active fault or potential active fault by Santa Clara County (Sandy Baily, Los Gatos Planning Department). There is evidence of Quaternary displacement for the fault (Jennings 1992). The San Andreas fault is approximately 5.5 miles southwest of the site.

A study published in May 1992 examined liquefaction potential within the City of San Jose. The study area included lands on three sides of the Los Gatos Percolation Ponds including downstream areas of Los Gatos Creek. The Los Gatos Percolation Ponds have similar subsurface conditions and would probably share the same rating potential as the surrounding lands. This would indicate a low potential for liquefaction at Los Gatos Creek Park. This rating is assigned to areas underlain by alluvial sediments, that are Pleistocene or older or, if Holocene, then groundwater is at depths greater than 10 feet (Power et al., 1992). Historically, the area just south of the Park did experience increased stream flows and drying of wells following an earthquake in 1865--features sometimes associated with liquefiable sediments (Power et al., 1992).

The lease area is nearly flat with no structures except for a hexagonal viewing tower and dams.

There are no significant geologic hazards present in the lease area of the Los Gatos Percolation Ponds which would pose a significant hazard to park visitors.

Stevens Creek Reservoir: Recreational facilities within the lease area of Stevens Creek Reservoir are concentrated in two areas: the dam and adjacent shoreline and the Lakeshore picnic area. Hiking and equestrian trails are also located on the eastern shore of the Reservoir within the lease area.

The seismically-active San Andreas fault is located approximately 2.4 miles southwest of Stevens Creek dam (USGS 1974). The Berrocal fault is located approximately 3,400 feet west of the dam. This northwest trending fault eventually crosses Stevens Creek just south of the southern lease area boundary.

The Sargent-Berrocal fault, considered active by Santa Clara County, is zoned by the County as "Dr" used to indicate an area with a high potential for ground rupture in which special geologic studies would be required prior to development. There is evidence of late Quaternary activity along this northern segment of the Sargent-Berrocal fault; a dormant landslide southwest of the quarry appears to have been offset by the fault during the late Pleistocene. The southern segment, in the vicinity of Hecker Pass in south County, displays creep and evidence of Holocene seismic activity (Bill Bryant, CDMG).

Bedrock west of the Sargent Berrocal fault is primarily of the Franciscan assemblage; east of the fault, bedrock is of the Santa Clara formation. Nearly all of the lease area is east of the fault.

Stevens Creek reservoir has a very low potential for liquefaction and seiche waves (Power et al., 1992; Rogers and Williams 1974). The 1974 seismic hazard study by Rogers and Williams identified Stevens Creek Reservoir as having a high potential for landslide splash waves. A investigation of seismic safety at the reservoir found that modifications would greatly improve reservoir safety and bring the dam up to current seismic safety standards. The improvements included elevation of the dam crest to prevent overtopping as well as improvement to increase structural support (B. Tepel, SCVWD).

There was no major damage to Stevens Creek Reservoir stemming from the 1989 Loma Prieta Earthquake (B. Tepel, SCVWD).

Site inspection of the lease area lands found evidence of minor erosion occurring due to use of volunteer trails leading down from the dam parking area to the shoreline. A barrier installed along the length of the parking lot may discourage volunteer trail use by some visitors. Additionally, clearly marked signs could be installed to identify a primary maintained trail to the fishing/lakeside area. This could result in erosion of the steep slope below the parking area.

There are no significant geologic hazards present in the lease area of the Los Gatos Percolation Ponds which would pose a significant hazard to park visitors.

Uvas Reservoir: Recreational activities at Uvas Reservoir are focused on the day use parking area/boat launch on the southwestern end of the Reservoir on Uvas Road. Non-power boating is allowed when Reservoir levels are high enough.

The lease area is underlain by greenstone, sandstone, shale and conglomerate of the Franciscan complex. A short, unnamed, inactive fault trace is mapped trending northwest through the southern half of the Reservoir and the dam and continuing south following Uvas Creek (Wagner et al., Jennings 1992).

Site inspection of the lease area lands found evidence of minor erosion occurring due to use of a volunteer trail leading straight up the steep ridge on the peninsula east of the day use parking area. The SCCPRD should develop a trail, which could also serve an interpretive function, from the parking area to the peninsula which follows the sloped topography more closely than the present vertical trail. The trail should be signed to encourage use. SCCPRD should revegetate the existing vertical trail leading uphill from the parking area.

There are no significant geologic hazards present in the lease area of Uvas Reservoir which would pose a significant hazard to park visitors.

Vasona Reservoir: Recreational activities in the lease area of Vasona Park take place throughout the Park but especially along Los Gatos Creek Trail which follows the eastern shore.

The lease area is underlain by Quaternary alluvium. A study published in May 1992 examined liquefaction potential within the City of San Jose. The study area included lands east of Vasona Park and lands within the creek channel and floodplain of Los Gatos Creek downstream of Vasona Park within the City of San Jose. Vasona Park may have similar subsurface conditions and would probably share the same rating potential as the Los Gatos Creek floodplain in San Jose. This would indicate a low potential for liquefaction at Vasona Park. This rating is assigned to areas underlain by alluvial sediments, that are Pleistocene or older or, if Holocene, then groundwater is at depths greater than 10 feet (Power et al., 1992). Historically, the area just north of the Park experienced increased stream flows and drying of wells following an earthquake in 1865--features associated with liquefiable sediments (Power et al., 1992).

Three traces identified as the Shannon fault and considered active, or potentially active, by Santa Clara County, are mapped as trending northwest across the Reservoir. The northernmost trace crosses north of the dam in the Garden Hill neighborhood. The middle trace cuts across the Reservoir just south of the sailing center. The third trace crosses at the southern extremity of the Park (Santa Clara County 1991). A 1994 study by William Lettis & Associates (Hitchcock, et al., 1994, Geomorphic Investigations of Deformation Along the Northeastern Margin of the Santa Cruz Mountains) mapped a possible thrust fault in the vicinity of the Park administrative offices based on a vegetative alignment. The short trace is approximately 600 feet long, roughly west/east in orientation and continues across the width of Highway 17. No fault trace was previously identified in that area.

Field inspection of the Vasona Reservoir dam following the 1989 Loma Prieta Earthquake is reported in the 1990 EERC report. Vasona Dam is approximately 16 miles north of the 1989 epicenter. The dam crest displayed extensive, but shallow, longitudinal cracking. The degree and width of the longitudinal cracking is considered minor and "preliminary studies suggest that this damage poses no significant risk to the overall stability of these embankments".

There are no significant geologic hazards present in the lease area of Vasona Reservoir which would pose a significant hazard to park visitors.

2. **Substantial disruptions, displacements, compaction, or impervious covering of soil?**
   and

3. Significant change in topography or ground relief features?

All Parks: The lease renewal approval would extend existing recreational uses for an additional 15 years. During the life of the lease, minor improvement projects, such as construction of short trail connections or installation or replacement of standard park facilities (i.e. picnic tables or fencing) may be made without additional CEQA review. These normal maintenance activities would not result in significant changes to topography or ground relief features nor substantial disruptions, compaction or impervious covering of soil.

Major improvement projects, such as those recommended through the SCCPRD Master Plan Process, are on hold pending the preparation of the SCVWD Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan in order to assure compliance of major improvements with that document. These plans would be subject to future CEQA review which would assess any geologic impacts generated by major improvements proposed during the span of the lease agreement.

The lease renewal would continue existing conditions in the lease areas for 15 years. No substantial disruptions, displacements, compaction, or impervious covering of soil is currently occurring or has occurred as a result of recreational activities in the lease lands. Minor soil compaction occurs throughout the lease areas wherever recreational facilities are provided or public use is directed, such as picnic areas, trails, campsites and preferred fishing areas along the lake shore. The provision of trails and other facilities act to concentrate compaction impacts and prevent more widespread compaction throughout the park.

Current public recreation activities do result in minor soil compaction impacts which are not considered significant.

4. Destruction, covering, or modification of any unique geologic or physical features?

The continuation of the lease agreement would not result in any modification to unique geologic or physical features in the lease areas.

4.B HYDROLOGY/WATER QUALITY

1. **Changes in currents or direction of water movements or sedimentation or erosion within the channel of a river or stream or the bed of a bay or lake?**

   Responses to questions 1 and 2 are combined below.

2. **Changes in filtration rates, sedimentation, drainage patterns, or the rate and amount of surface water run-off?**

All lease areas except Uvas and Chesbro are located in the 240-square mile San Francisco Bay Basin. The lease sites are also in the Santa Clara Valley/Coyote Groundwater Basin. The groundwater basin is composed of one hydrogeologic unit containing one (1) large aquifer and several interconnected smaller aquifers. It has a depth to groundwater of 10 to 1010 feet, and a storage capacity of 3.0 million acre-feet (RWQCB, 1986). Water Quality planning for these reservoirs falls under the jurisdiction of the Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB)-Region 2.

Uvas and Chesbro are located in the Central Coastal Basin, a 300-mile by 40-mile area. The two reservoirs are also in the Pajaro River Hydrologic Unit, and the Gilroy-Hollister Valley Groundwater Basin. Water quality planning for these two reservoirs falls under the jurisdiction of the RWQCB-Region 3.

All Parks: Natural runoff occurs within the watersheds of all the reservoirs. This background runoff likely contains contaminants associated with irrigation, grazing, or mining as well as soil from natural erosion processes. Factors such as soil size and shape, slope gradient and length, flow and velocity of precipitation, and land cover conditions all influence the quantity of runoff found in these watersheds. While contamination can originate anywhere in the watershed, it should be noted that only a portion of detached contaminants from upland regions in most watersheds are ultimately carried to streams and lakes. Significant portions are often deposited at the base of slopes and flood plains (Vesilind, et. al., 1990).

Renewal of the lease would not be expected to alter current or direction of water movements in any reservoir; nor would it be expected to increase erosion, surface water runoff, or sedimentation. There does appear, however, to be a system-wide incidence of poorly maintained drainage culverts. These impediments to smooth runoff flow have the capability to increase erosion, ultimately producing particulate-laden surface water runoff. To ensure that water quality of the reservoirs does not diminish as a result of erosion and sedimentation, the following good practice measure is recommended.

Good Practice: **SCCPRD and SCCTA should work together to develop maps for each of the lease areas which indicate the location of culverts that serve parks or roads that border park lands. Standards for drainage facilities should be established, and SCCPRD field staff should monitor conditions to ensure that drainage ways remain free of debris build-up. SCCPRD should notify SCCTA in the event culverts require maintenance.**

3. Alteration in course or flow of floodwaters?

Responses to questions 3 and 4 are combined below.

4. Increase in downstream flood potential that might affect human health or cause property damage?

All Parks: Flooding is not an issue related to renewal of the lease. **There would be no significant impacts.**

5. Change in the amount of surface water in any body of water?

All Parks: The SCVWD controls water levels in all reservoirs through the monitoring of receipts and releases. Changes in surface water quantities would not occur as a result of lease renewal. **There would be no significant impacts.**

6. Contamination or any detrimental effect on existing water quality or quantities of either surface or subsurface supplies (e.g., temperature changes, dissolved oxygen, turbidity)?

Maintaining water quality is the responsibility of the state, the RWQCB, and local water districts such as the SCVWD. Water quality objectives for inland surface waters, and beneficial uses for these waters have been defined for various waters of the state.

All Parks: To protect water quality there is a system-wide prohibition of swimming in reservoirs, as well as boat use limitations (e.g., 1 boat: 5-7 acres). The DHS and the SCVWD restrict swimming in emergency public water supply (terminal) reservoirs (Anderson, Coyote, Calero, Almaden) to maintain certain water quality standards. Swimming at the remaining reservoirs has been banned by SCCPRD due to a lack of life guard personnel. According to park rangers, the restriction of this activity requires constant monitoring by park staff during the peak season. ~~This creates the potential for violation of DHS water quality orders, and the possibility of injury from lack of supervision. To reduce incidences of illegal swimming, the following good practice measure is recommended.~~

Incidences of illegal swimming have the potential to result in a violation of DHS water quality orders at reservoirs which could be used as emergency sources *to augment District water supply. Illegal swimming at Anderson, Coyote, Calero and Almaden reservoirs is considered a significant impact to water quality by the State Department of Health Services. Illegal swimming at all the reservoir parks increases the possibility of injury from lack of supervision. To reduce incidences of illegal swimming at the four reservoirs considered as sources of emergency supply, the following mitigation measure is recommended. This mitigation measure should be enforced at the remaining 8 lease areas as a good practice measure to prevent injury due to lack of supervision at these parks.*

Impact: *Water Quality--Illegal swimming in reservoirs which are emergency water sources for the District have the potential to result in a violation of DHS water quality orders resulting in a significant water quality impact.*

Park(s): *Initial Focus on ALMADEN, ANDERSON, CALERO, AND COYOTE Reservoirs with application at all 12 lease areas.*

Mitigation: SCCPRD, in cooperation with SCVWD, should implement an improved *and aggressive* swimming prohibition sign program. Signs should convey both the "NO SWIMMING" message *in a multilingual format using* succinct language *and* ~~or~~ symbolism demonstrating the rationale for this restriction at the reservoirs. Additional NO SWIMMING signs should be placed in all likely areas where visitors access the lakeshore (e.g., *all developed recreation areas,* volunteer trails, *automobile pulloffs, etc*). *Phase 1 of the swimming prohibition sign program will focus on Almaden, Anderson, Calero and Coyote Reservoirs which are considered emergency water supply sources by the SCVWD. At the completion of Phase 1, Phase 2 signing will extend the new program to the remaining 8 lease areas and any other appropriate bodies of water owned by the SCVWD.*

Effect: *The impact would be reduced to a less than significant level (C. Ling, Department of Health Services, September 8, 1994).*

Monitoring: *SCCPRD Lease Status Report*

Almaden Reservoir: The Almaden Reservoir is located in a watershed area of hilly terrain covered with range grass, low bushes and trees. Slopes average greater than 30%. The 12-square mile drainage area is supplied by local runoff, and serves to impound this surface runoff, provide controlled releases to Alamitos Creek for groundwater recharge, and serve as a DHS-approved emergency drinking water source (EOA, Inc. 1989). Beneficial uses established by the RWQCB for Almaden include: groundwater recharge, municipal and domestic water supply, wildlife habitat, warm and cold fresh water habitat, fish spawning, water contact recreation (fishing from shore), and non-contact water recreation.

Bacteriological contamination (e.g., fecal coliform, total coliform, and fecal streptococcus) from nearby residential septic systems has been a water quality concern for the reservoir. To ensure contamination was not occurring as a result indicate that there are no exceedances of the MCLs (SCVWD Water Quality Data 1989-1992).

Other parameters monitored include bacteriological and pathogenic, contaminants likely originating from cattle grazing and septic systems within the watershed. Bacteriological testing for total coliform, fecal coliform and fecal streptococcus have shown low levels of these constituents, as well as for the pathogenics (cryptosporidium and giardiasis). Results indicate that water quality is good, and that the cattle density at the time of the study was not impacting water quality (SCVWD Cattle Management Plan 1993). Continued implementation of the DHS-approved Cattle Management Plan will reduce the possibility of any adverse impacts to water quality.

Residential units in the Holiday Lakes development adjacent to the reservoir utilize septic systems which have been known to elevate coliform levels in the water. To ensure that bacteriological contamination was not occurring as a result of these septic systems, the 1990 Watershed Management Plan prepared for SCVWD recommended that sanitary surveys be done for the Holiday Lakes community. Analysis indicated adequate performance, but quarterly visual inspections were recommended. As of January 1994, quarterly surveys show acceptable conditions (SCVWD Annual Report to DHS-Quarterly Monitoring At Twin Creeks and Holiday Lakes, January 1994).

Petroleum product use associated with boating has historically been considered a potential water quality concern. In a 1987 sample of inlet, outlet and marina areas by the SCVWD no petroleum contamination (e.g., hydrocarbons, toluene, benzene, xylene, grease, oil) from power boating activities was found. The SCVWD is confident that these results show that this level of boating activities do not degrade reservoir water quality system-wide.

Calero Reservoir: Calero Reservoir is located in a 6.9-square mile watershed in the Santa Cruz Mountains. The area is predominantly grasslands and oak savannah. The reservoir is used by the SCVWD for groundwater recharge as well as an emergency drinking water source, and it receives water from Almaden Reservoir during the wet season via the Almaden-Calero canal (SCCPRD 1992).

Beneficial uses for Calero have been established by the RWQCB. These include: groundwater recharge, municipal and domestic water supply, wildlife habitat, warm fresh water habitat, fish spawning, water contact recreation, and non-contact water recreation. Water quality in the reservoir is influenced by many sources including cattle grazing, stables, and water originating in the Almaden watershed. Historical water quality issues of concern have been elevated levels of bacteriological contamination (coliforms), iron and manganese, mercury, and algae. Recent data on organic, chemical and radioactive compounds show that no MCLs were exceeded (SCVWD Water Quality Data 1989-1992). Third quarter 1993 data on bacteriological contaminants show low levels of total coliform, fecal coliforms and fecal streptococcus. Results indicate that the cattle density at the time of the study was not impacting water quality (SCVWD Cattle Management Plan).

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Recreational influences on water quality include runoff associated with equestrian board and care at the onsite stables, as well as localized cattle grazing. Current practices to reduce contamination include specialized drainage diversions and the DHS-approved Calero Stable Management Plan and the SCVWD Cattle Management Plan. These features, in combination with quarterly stable and monthly reservoir monitoring (weekly during emergency drinking water use) will reduce potential significant impacts associated with these uses. As discussed earlier for Anderson Reservoir, motorized boating/jet skiing, does not impact water quality. Existing recreational activities do not degrade water quality, and conditions would not change with lease renewal. **There would be no significant impact.**

Chesbro Reservoir: Chesbro Reservoir is located in the southwestern portion of Santa Clara County in the foothills of the Santa Cruz mountains. The reservoir is supplied entirely by local runoff, and is used by the district for groundwater recharge. Beneficial uses established by the RWQCB for Chesbro include: groundwater recharge, agricultural supply, wildlife habitat, warm fresh water habitat, fish spawning, water contact recreation, and non-contact water recreation. **There are no impacts to water quality associated with recreation at Chesbro.**

Coyote Percolation Pond: The SCVWD uses the Coyote Percolation Ponds for the purpose of groundwater recharge. Activities associated with recreation at the Coyote Percolation Pond do not degrade water quality. **There are no impacts.**

Coyote Reservoir: Coyote Reservoir is within a 119-square mile drainage area. Surrounding land uses which could contribute to local runoff include ranching, agriculture, residential, and low intensity recreation (EOA, Inc. 1989). The reservoir is supplied entirely by local runoff within the watershed and serves the SCVWD by providing water for groundwater recharge purposes. The RWQCB has established the following beneficial uses: municipal and domestic water supply, agricultural supply, wildlife habitat, warm and cold fresh water habitat, fish spawning, water contact recreation, and non-contact water recreation.

As with the other lease sites that accommodate motorized boating, no water quality degradation occurs, or would occur. Water quality monitoring data for 1992 (organic and chemical) showed no detectable levels of contaminants (SCVWD Water Quality Data, 1992).

Other parameters of concern include bacteriological and pathogenic, contaminants that could originate from cattle grazing and park facility leach fields. Results from monitoring during the third quarter of 1993 indicate that water quality is not affected by cattle grazing in the watershed (SCVWD Cattle Management Plan, 1993). Implementation of the DHS-approved Cattle Management Plan will reduce the possibility of any adverse impacts to water quality.

Recreational activities associated with the lease renewal would not degrade water quality conditions. **There would be no significant impact.**

It was observed during field reconnaissance that there are limited restroom/chemical toilet facilities around the perimeter of the reservoir (beyond the boat launch area). This increases the likelihood that visitors will not use the appropriate facilities, and untreated waste products have the potential to adversely impact water quality. The park does have DHS requirements to supply chemical toilets at a ration of 1 toilet:50 picnickers, and 1 toilet:100 boaters. To increase convenience for park visitors, and to decrease the likelihood of unauthorized use, the following good practice measure is recommended.

Good Practice: **In addition to DHS requirements, during peak seasons SCCPRD should provide additional chemical toilets around the perimeter of the reservoir. Toilets should be placed in access areas frequently used by park visitors, as identified by the park ranger. *The SCCPRD shall arrange for service and pumping of the chemical toilets based on the anticipated number of park users, especially during peak use months.***

Guadalupe Reservoir: Guadalupe Reservoir is located in foothills of the Santa Cruz Mountains. The reservoir serves the SCVWD in groundwater recharge and incidental flood control capacities. Beneficial uses established for Guadalupe include: groundwater recharge, municipal and domestic water supply, wildlife habitat, warm and cold fresh water habitat, fish spawning, water contact recreation (fishing from shore/boat), and non-contact water recreation. There is limited recreational use around the reservoir; only fishing is permitted. **There are no adverse impacts to water quality associated with recreation at Guadalupe.**

Lexington Reservoir: Lexington Reservoir is in the Los Gatos Creek drainage basin, a 37.5 square mile basin situated between the Sierra Azul mountains to the east, and the Santa Cruz mountains to the west. The Basin has deeply incised tributaries which are mostly intermittent, and stormwater drainage is entirely natural (Earthmetrics 1986). The reservoir is used for groundwater recharge and incidental flood control. The RWQCB has established the following beneficial uses for Lexington: municipal and domestic water supply, wildlife habitat, warm and cold fresh water habitat, fish spawning, water contact recreation, and non-contact water recreation.

The reservoir is surrounded by a public access road, and stormwater runoff carries urban contaminants (e.g., oil, grease, heavy metals) from these roads and parkways around the perimeter of the reservoir. Local residential septic systems have also been a water quality concern in the past. Because the reservoir is not a designated drinking water source, there is no regular monitoring of water quality. There are no existing recreational activities which degrade water quality conditions, and none would occur with lease renewal. **There would be no significant impact.**

Los Gatos Percolation Ponds: The Los Gatos Percolation Ponds are used by the SCVWD for groundwater recharge. Recreational activities associated with the lease renewal would not degrade water quality conditions. **There would be no significant impact.**

Stevens Creek Reservoir: Stevens Creek Reservoir is located in an 11,000-acre watershed in the foothills of the Santa Cruz Mountains. Beneficial uses established by the RWQCB include: groundwater recharge, municipal and domestic water supply, wildlife habitat, warm and cold fresh water habitat, fish spawning and migration, and non-contact water recreation. As the reservoir is not used for drinking water purposes, regular water quality monitoring has not occurred. There are no recreational activities associated with the lease renewal that would degrade water quality conditions. **There would be no significant impact.**

Uvas Reservoir: Uvas Reservoir is located in foothills of the Santa Cruz Mountains, and provides groundwater recharge and incidental flood control services. Beneficial uses established by the RWQCB for Uvas include: groundwater recharge, agricultural supply, wildlife habitat, warm fresh water habitat, fish spawning, water contact recreation, and non-contact water recreation. Because it is not a designated drinking water source, Uvas reservoir water quality is not monitored regularly. Recreational activities associated with the lease renewal would not degrade water quality conditions. **There would be no significant impact.**

Vasona Reservoir: Vasona is located upstream from Lexington Reservoir along Los Gatos Creek. The reservoir and surrounding park lands are actively used by park visitors, and the water is used for groundwater recharge purposes by the SCVWD. Beneficial uses established by the RWQCB for Vasona include: industrial process supply, navigation, ocean commercial and sport fishing, warm fresh water habitat, fish migration, water contact recreation, and areas of special biological significance.

One water quality concern related to recreation at Vasona is the concentration of waterfowl in and around the reservoir. Waterfowl are encouraged to remain at the park due to feeding by park visitors. Waste matter from waterfowl has the potential to result in reduced dissolved oxygen levels, and increases of suspended materials, biostimulatory substances, and unpleasant odors. The issue of waste matter from waterfowl is discussed further in the Biology section of this study. **Because Vasona is not used as a direct drinking water source, but used for groundwater recharge only, any impacts to water quality from waterfowl are not considered significant.**

7. Change in the quantity of groundwaters, either through direct additions or withdrawals or through interception of an aquifer by cuts or excavations?

Responses to questions 7, 8, and 9 are combined below.

8. Alteration of the direction or rate of flow of groundwater?

See below.

9. Reduction in the amount of water otherwise available for public supplies?

All Parks: There would be no changes to groundwater quantity, availability, or the rate of groundwater flow as a result of lease renewal. **There would be no significant impacts.**

4.C. PLANT LIFE

1. Changes in the diversity of species or numbers of any species of plants (including trees, shrubs, grasses, herbs, crops, and aquatic plants)?

All Parks: The proposed project extends the existing lease agreement between the SCVWD and the SCCPRD for an additional 15 years. The extension of the lease continues recreational use by the public at the 12 lease areas. Other than minor maintenance and facilities improvement projects that may be completed by either agency during the lease agreement period, no changes in the physical environment of the lease areas is proposed as part of the project. Continuation of public recreation in the lease areas would not result in a change in diversity of species or numbers of any plant species. Other conditions that affect the numbers and diversity of plant species, such as changes in reservoir water levels, which are not related to recreation but to water supply, are not the subject of this initial study.

The proposed project would not result in changes to diversity or numbers of plant species.

2. Loss or deterioration of a unique botanical area, such as wetland (marsh, slough, wet meadow) or riparian (streamside) vegetation?

All Parks: The upstream portions of all ten reservoirs and percolation ponds contain either remnant (Los Gatos Percolation Ponds) or well-established riparian vegetation. Recreational facilities at the lease area have most usually been concentrated at the opposite end (the dam) of each reservoir. No recreational facilities, including trails, have been developed in the riparian areas of the lease lands. Any recreation in these lands would be low impact, i.e., fishing or nature study. Several of the creek inlets to the reservoirs are difficult to access due to steep slopes, dense vegetation or long distances from legal parking areas. Examples of reservoirs with similar conditions are Almaden, Anderson, Chesbro, Guadalupe and Lexington. Consequently, the upstream areas of these reservoirs would be only very lightly affected by recreation. Occasionally, the riparian area is in the adjacent SCCPRD portion of the Park such as at Stevens Creek or Vasona County Parks.

Unique Botanical Areas	Parks in Which These Areas are Found
Riparian	Present in the creek inlet areas of all reservoirs, in the canal of Los Gatos Creek at the Percolation Ponds and on the perimeter of Coyote Percolation Pond.
Wetlands	Anderson, Calero
Serpentine Bunchgrass	Calero, Coyote
Serpentine Chaparral	Anderson
Serpentine - Grey Pine	Anderson
Valley Oak Woodland	Calero

Source: California Department of Fish and Game RAREFIND Natural Diversity Database (8/93), CH2M Hill (11/92-Calero), Habitat Restoration Group (4/89-Anderson & 7/92-Coyote), TRA (4/94-all areas and 5/94-Anderson, Calero).

Anderson Reservoir: Serpentine Chaparral. Populations of Coyote ceanothus were observed and are being expanded through SCVWD revegetation efforts. Recreation trails through the serpentine chaparral are wide but visitors are likely to remain on the trails because the serpentine chaparral shrubs are dense and do not encourage off trail use.

Serpentine gray pine. A serpentine/grey pine area occurs along the ridge top north of the dam outside of the lease area. Although this botanical area is in SCCPRD property, it is important to note the location of the community when planning any trails beginning in the lease lands. This area is only accessible from trails through the lease area or from access by boat.

The ridge is not planned for recreational development and no significant impacts would result from project approval.

Calero Reservoir: Riparian vegetation is present at the inlet of the creek north of the Calero Ranch Stables. A Stable Management Plan for Calero Reservoir which will control ranch runoff has been approved by the Department of Health Services. Implementation of this plan will direct runoff from the stables away from the reservoir thereby improving reservoir, riparian and wetland habitat near the unnamed creek north of the stables.

Wetlands. The Master Plan Program Draft EIR (CH2M Hill 1992) mapped wetland and serpentine plant communities within the park study area but did not map any wetland areas within the lease area. A site visit conducted for this Initial Study identified two wetland areas within the SCVWD lease to add to the planning inventory. The two additional wetland locations are: 1) west of the Baily-Fellows House and 2) the drainage in the vicinity of the plunge pool.

1) The wetland west of the Baily-Fellows House is dominated by species of dock, *Rumex crispus* and *Rumex salicifalius*, making up over 50% of the cover. Also present are cattail species *Typha angustifolia* and *Typha latifoloa*.

2) The plunge pool feeds a small creek which contains water and is dominated by annual beard grass, *Polypogon monspeliensis*. The creek contains wetland habitat as does the edge of the reservoir from where water has receded.

These were the only two wetland areas identified within the lease area of Calero. No recreational activities currently take place in these two areas and no impact to these or other wetlands would result from project approval. McKean Road is fenced, no parking is allowed and there are no established trails to lead visitors to the wetland.

Serpentine Bunchgrass. The southern shore of the Reservoir has been identified as containing serpentine-derived soils (CH2M Hill 1992, Figure 4.4-2, page 4.4-4; Alan Launer, Center for Conservation Biology). Serpentine soils at Calero dominate the western half of the three northwest/southeast trending ridges east of the Cherry Creek slough. A more restricted area of serpentine soil is identified in the vicinity of where the Juan Crespi trail switches back to become the Los Cerritos Trail (see Figure 2.3.E, the facilities map shows this switchback). This is also an area identified as containing many heritage size trees (CH2M Hill 1992, page 4.4-3).

Serpentine bunchgrass or serpentine chaparral communities may be present in the areas mapped for serpentine soils. Nearly all Park trails are sited on portions of the serpentine-derived soils according to mapping completed for the Park Master Plan (CH2M Hill 1992, page 4.4-4). SCCPRD trails which have been sited in those portions of the lease area on southern side of Calero Reservoir identified as having serpentine-derived soils are the only recreational facilities in this unique community. If visitors stay on trails in these areas, impacts to the surrounding unique botanical community is restricted and would not be significant. Interpretive signing in these areas could reinforce the regulation to stay on trails.

Valley oak woodland occurs along the perimeter of the Reservoir within the lease area. No recreational activities take place in this area with the exception of infrequent boat-in picnics.

No significant impact would occur to unique communities in Calero Reservoir as a result of project approval.

Chesbro Reservoir: No unique communities other than riparian woodland, (previously discussed under the heading "All Parks"), are found in this lease area. There are no significant impacts to plant communities from recreation.

Coyote Percolation Pond: No unique communities other than riparian woodland, (previously discussed under the heading All Parks), are found in this lease area. There are no significant impacts to plant communities from recreation.

Coyote Reservoir: Serpentine Bunchgrass. The 1989 Natural Resource Inventory for Coyote Reservoir identifies serpentine bedrock as occurring sporadically on the hillslopes west of the Reservoir. Serpentine bunchgrass community is identified for the Park. The hillslopes west of the Reservoir are outside of the lease area and not developed for recreation.

The southern end of the lease area at Coyote Reservoir contains well-developed marsh and riparian habitat. As water levels drop in the spring, visitors in the Lakeview Picnic Area have unrestricted access to the area which may contain nesting birds. To avoid the crisscrossing of the marsh areas with numerous trails the following good practice measure is recommended:

Good Practice	As a part of the park planning process, SCCPRD shall establish seasonal, temporary nature trails that provide authorized visitors access to sensitive wetland areas. Interpretive signage detailing the relationship between sensitive habitats and species shall be placed adjacent to this wetland area.

Guadalupe Reservoir: No unique communities other than riparian woodland, (previously discussed under the heading All Parks), are found in this lease area. There are no significant impacts to plant communities from recreation.

Lexington Reservoir: Riparian vegetation is present at the inlet of Los Gatos Creek. Most visitors to the southern end of the Reservoir are float fisherpeople, who have a low impact on resources. No other recreational activities take place at this end of the Reservoir that would result in a significant negative impact.

Los Gatos Percolation Ponds: Los Gatos Creek is channelized through the park. Riparian vegetation is growing along the channel. Recreation does not impact the riparian community. The only recreation adjacent to the canal are short trail segments.

Stevens Creek Reservoir: In the upstream portion of the lease area, Stevens Creek Reservoir is bordered by riparian vegetation. The southern end of the lease area includes a picnic area but no concentrated recreational use takes place along Stevens Creek Reservoir shoreline. Scattered day use areas have been developed along Stevens Creek Reservoir impacting riparian vegetation but access to most of the creekbed is restricted due to steep slopes, distance to a legal parking area and dense vegetation. The impact to the riparian community from the scattered day use areas is not significant.

Uvas Reservoir: There is no public access to the upstream portion of Uvas Reservoir. No impacts would result from project approval.

Vasona Reservoir: The riparian community along Los Gatos Creek in Vasona Lake County Park is in an urban environment, in a park that receives very heavy usage and contains many non-native plants. The majority of the Los Gatos Creek riparian community is remote from the Los Gatos Creek Trail, a heavily used multi-use trail that crosses the length of the Park. Approximately 2,000 feet of riparian corridor is within the County Park but south of the lease area, which is primarily reservoir. Project approval would have no impact on the condition of the riparian corridor of Los Gatos Creek.

There are no significant impacts to unique plant communities from recreation within the lease area.

3. Reduction of the numbers of any locally unique species of plants (e.g., heritage trees) or rare, threatened, or endangered species of plants on or off the project site?

Public pressure to acknowledge the importance of biological resources forms the basis for federal and state laws aimed at protecting endangered, rare and threatened species of plants, animals, and natural communities. The primary laws that must be satisfied in order to enact the renewal of the SCVWD lease agreement are the Federal Endangered Species Act (FESA), the California Endangered Species Act (CESA), the Native Plant Protection Act (NPPA), the Migratory Bird Act and the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

Both FESA and CESA prohibit adverse impacts to threatened plant and animal species. CEQA requires disclosure of potential impacts to all sensitive species and requires impact mitigation.

Unique, Rare, Threatened or Endangered Plants Which Occur or Have the Potential to Occur In SCVWD Lease Lands

Scientific name Common name	Federal Status	State Status	CNPS	LOCATIONS
Acanthomintha lanceolata Santa Clara Thornmint			4	Anderson: potential habitat but not sighted 5/94. Calero
Balsamorhiza macrolepis macrolepis			1B	Coyote: sighted on western edge of Coyote Lake Park
Ceanothus ferrisae Coyote Ceanothus	proposed endangered	none	1B	Anderson: occurs and is subject of large revegetation effort. Uvas
Cirsium fontinale var. *campylon* Mt. Hamilton Thistle	C2	none	1B	Anderson: potential habitat near Coyote Creek, lower picnic area. Guadalupe:
Dudleya setchellii Santa Clara Valley Dudleya	proposed endangered	none	1B	Calero
Erigonum argillosum Clay-loving Buckwheat			4	Calero
Malacothamnus hallii Hall's Bush Mallow			1B	
Quercus lobata Valley Oak				Calero
Streptanthus albidus ssp. *albidus* Metcalf Canyon Jewelflower	proposed endangered	none	1B	Calero
Streptanthus albidus ssp. *peramoenus* Uncommon Jewelflower	C1	none	1B	Calero, Lexington

Source: California Department of Fish and Game RAREFIND Natural Diversity Database (8/93), CH2M Hill (11/92), Habitat Restoration Group (4/89), TRA (5/94), California Native Plant Society's Inventory 1994, personal communication Alan Launer and Dennis Murphy, Center for Conservation Biology; Martha Schauss, California Dept. of Fish and Game; Janine Mohring, Senior Ranger, SCCPRD.

Status Code:
Federal C1 = sufficient data to support listing
Federal C2 = threat and/or distribution data are insufficient to support listing
CNPS 1B = Plants Rare, Threatened or Endangered, CEQA review required
CNPS 4 = Plants of Limited Distribution - a Watch List

Almaden Reservoir: No species of concern were identified for this reservoir.

Anderson Reservoir: Recreational activities at Anderson Reservoir are focused in three main areas: the group picnic areas downstream of the dam along Coyote Creek, the boat launching area at the southern side of the dam, and the

Woodchoppers Flat day use area on the eastern side of the Reservoir north of the Cochrane Bridge (see Figure 2.2.E).

Serpentine chaparral area is found on the slope below and north of the dam. The Live Oak group picnic area is at the base of the slope. Several volunteer trails lead upslope from the group picnic area into the chaparral. Rare plant surveys were conducted by TRA (5/94) in the serpentine area. Populations of Coyote ceanothus were observed. These populations are being expanded through SCVWD revegetation efforts. Suitable habitat exists for Metcalf Canyon jewelflower, the Uncommon jewelflower, and Santa Clara thornmint, however, none were observed. The serpentine chaparral lacks suitable rock outcropping and therefore provides marginal habitat for the Santa Clara Valley Dudleya. No dudleya were observed. The Clay-loving buckwheat, which is known from oak woodland on bare clay and sometimes on serpentine was not sighted. The lower picnic area has potential habitat for Mt. Hamilton thistle.

Recreational use in the chaparral would not result in significant impacts to rare plant populations. Recreation is confined to a few short trails.

Coyote Creek just below the end of the spillway has the potential to contain Mt Hamilton thistle, although none were observed in the 1994 visit. Visitors would be more likely to wander off trails into this riparian/wetland zone than into chaparral.

No rare plants are sighted in the serpentine chaparral other than Coyote Ceanothus, the subject plant of the revegetation effort. No rare plants were sighted in the lower picnic area and no impacts to sensitive species would result.

Calero Reservoir: Recreational facilities at Calero Reservoir are focused in two areas: the boat launching/picnic area on the northshore and the Calero Ranch Stables at the southeastern end of the Reservoir. Recreational activities take place throughout the Reservoir, adjacent lease lands and SCCPRD lands.

The southern slopes within Calero Reservoir County Park have been identified as containing extensive areas of serpentine derived soils which support unique plant communities of serpentine bunch grassland and serpentine chaparral. The loop connecting the Juan Crespi Trail and Los Cerritos Trail, within 500 ft of the south rim of the reservoir, passes through a serpentinite outcropping which is habitat for the Santa Clara Valley dudleya. This plant, proposed for federal listing is found on rocky outcrops. Impacts would be confined to this one trail, providing trail regulations are adhered to. It would be advisable to sign and fence this area as particularly sensitive.

Chesbro Reservoir: No sensitive species were noted for Chesbro Reservoir.

Coyote Percolation Pond: There is no recreation currently allowed at the Coyote Percolation Pond within the Coyote Creek County Park and no sensitive species were noted for the area.

Coyote Reservoir: Recreational facilities at Coyote Reservoir are concentrated on the western shoreline. The eastern shoreline is designated as wildlife area and access is restricted. Much of the western shoreline can be easily accessed though the more popular areas are the Lake View Campground and Picnic Area at the southern end of the Reservoir, the Sandy Beach Picnic Area and Boat Launch areas midway on the shoreline with fewer visitors using the pullouts and primitive picnic areas to the north closest to the dam.

A sign on the northern portion of Coyote Lake Road indicates the limit of a wildlife sanctuary but no restrictions are listed nor is the definition of the special status of the area given. The following good practice measure is recommended to help clarify the restrictions involved with the wildlife sanctuary designation:

Good Practice: SCCPRD should post regulatory signs and interpretive signs which explain the special status of the wildlife sanctuary area. Staff has indicated that pets and fires are not allowed in the wildlife sanctuary.

Guadalupe Reservoir: There is no recreation currently allowed at the Coyote Percolation Pond within the Coyote Creek County Park and no sensitive species were noted for Guadalupe Reservoir.

Lexington Reservoir: There are no sensitive species noted for this area of Lexington Reservoir.

Los Gatos Percolation Ponds: There are no sensitive species recorded for the Los Gatos Percolation Ponds.

Stevens Creek Reservoir: There are no sensitive species noted for the lease area of Stevens Creek Reservoir.

Uvas Reservoir: There are no sensitive species reported for Uvas Reservoir and no adverse impact to unique plants would result.

Vasona Reservoir: There are no plant species of concern recorded for the Vasona Lake County Park.

4. Introduction of invasive or exotic plant species into an area or result in a barrier to the normal replenishment of existing species?

All Parks: No introductions of invasive or exotic plant species are planned as part of the continuation of lease agreement. However, certain lease areas do contain exotic invasive plant species, which, if left uncontrolled will continue to spread within the lease area and adjacent lands. Many of the lease areas are adjacent to current or historic rural residential communities, often the initial source of exotic plant species. Los Gatos Percolation Ponds and Vasona Reservoir lease areas function as integral parts of urban parks and contain many landscape species which are not considered invasive given the isolated location of the park units within an urban setting.

The SCCPRD has recently begun to formulate Resource Management Plans for park units. The Resource Management plans will address the control of invasive plant species such as eucalyptus trees, scotch broom, french broom, periwinkle, ivies and fennel. Without management of the lease areas for recreation, exotic species control efforts would probably not be undertaken.

No barriers are effected by the lease renewal that would block the normal replenishment of existing species. No introduction of invasive or exotic plant species would occur as a result of project approval.

4.D. ANIMAL LIFE

1. Changes in the diversity of species or numbers of any species of animals (including amphibians, reptiles, birds, mammals, fish and shellfish, benthic organisms, insects, or microfauna)?

All Parks: The proposed project continues an existing lease agreement for an additional 15 years. Other than minor maintenance and facilities improvement, projects that may be completed during the lease agreement period, no changes in the physical environment that would affect wildlife habitat within the lease area is anticipated as a result of the lease renewal. With the exception of the discussion targeting Vasona Reservoir that follows, the extension of the current levels of public recreation in the lease areas does not have the potential to effect a change in the diversity of species or numbers of any animal species. Other conditions that affect the numbers and diversity of animal species, such as changes in reservoir water level, which are not related to recreation but to water supply, are not the subject of this initial study.

Vasona: The concentration of waterfowl in and around the reservoir presents a potential health hazard to waterfowl. The spread of diseases, such as duck virus enteritis (DVE), is facilitated by crowded conditions, like those found at the reservoir. Muscovy ducks, very common at the reservoir, may be particularly susceptible to the virus which is found in domestic waterfowl but may not have yet spread into the native waterfowl population. Outbreaks of avian botulism are also more common in large, crowded duck populations especially when near bodies of water with lower levels of dissolved oxygen. Avian botulism is localized and not contagious in nature.

Most urban park departments have similar problems (East Bay Regional Parks, City of Mountain View, City of Palo Alto). No biologist has yet developed a means for determining a safe carrying capacity for ducks in urban settings. Most agencies ban the feeding of ducks to discourage the birds from taking up residence in a city park.

The SCCPRD has recently adopted a similar regulation Section B14-24.4, Feeding Wildlife, directs that park wildlife shall not be fed by the public unless authorized by the Director. The Director of the SCCPRD must now implement this regulation to see if the impacts from duck overpopulation can be reduced through restricting feeding by the public. Most park departments allow feeding of ducks and have primarily resident populations. However, wild ducks can become easily domesticated with one or two feedings, greatly increasing the resident population (K. Burger, East Bay Regional Park District). Departments that do ban duck feeding to control populations use interpretive or regulatory signs and enforcement contacts to explain the policy to the public.

The following good practice measure is recommended:

Good Practice: The SCCPRD should develop a strategy for implementing the new regulation B 14.24.4 prohibiting the feeding of ducks that includes interpretive signing and staff contacts to educate the public as to the threats to the wild duck population.

The proposed project would not result in changes to diversity or numbers of animal species.

2. Loss or disturbance of a colonial nesting area (e.g., tern colonies and heron rookeries) for resident or migratory birds or raptor nest sites?

The California Department of Fish and Game RAREFIND Natural Diversity Database lists 5 Great blue heron nests in the 30-foot tall sycamore in the riparian area of Coyote Creek close to the Coyote Percolation Ponds. There is no current recreational activity in this area and none is proposed as part of the lease continuation. No impact to the nesting area would result from the proposed project. There are no other records that indicate potential for disturbance of nesting birds from recreational activities.

No adverse impact to nesting areas would result from project approval.

3. Reduction of the numbers of any locally unique, rare, threatened, or endangered species of animal on or off the project site?

All Parks: Protection of the riparian and wetland areas as suggested in above sections will provide protection for populations of Yellow and Red-legged frogs, the Western pond turtle, and Tiger salamanders. The Red-legged frog, Rana aurora draytoni, is currently proposed for Federal listing as an endangered species. The reasons for the decline of the species are not clear but predation of tadpoles is one of the avenues for further research. If the frog is listed (scheduled for listing in the next six months), the *California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG) would* ~~SCCPRD may~~ need to assess whether the stocking of fish *by the CDFG* at the Reservoirs is having an adverse effect on red-legged frog populations (A. Launer, Center for Conservation Biology*; Allison Willy, US Fish and Wildlife Service; Mark Littlefield, US Fish and Wildlife Services; Carl Wilcox, California Department of Fish and Game; Mark Jennings, Ph.D., H.T. Harvey and Associates).*

In addition to predation by stocked rainbow trout, the introduction of bait fish species through the legal use of these species under the California Sports Fishing Regulations may be contributing to adverse impacts on the red-legged frog. (Mitigation to reduce the effects of these impacts to insignificance is detailed on page 4-35, 4.D.4)

The following table lists species sighted in or near the lease areas in the past decade. *With the exception of the above noted fishing-related activities,* no *other* recreational activity is identified that has impacted the number of any of these locally unique, rare, threatened or endangered species.

Unique, Rare, Threatened or Endangered Animal Species of the SCVWD Sighted In or Near Lease Areas 1984 - 1994

Scientific name Common name	Federal Status	State Status	LOCATIONS: sighted or potential to occur
Accipiter cooperi Cooper's hawk	none	species of special concern (nesting site)	Stevens Creek
Agelaius tricolor Tricolored blackbird	C2	none	Calero
Ambystoma californiense California tiger salamander	C1	species of special concern	Anderson, Lexington
Aquila chrysaetos Golden eagle	none	fully protected	Calero, Coyote
Ardea herodias Great blue heron	none	none	Coyote, Lexington, Stevens Creek
Chaetura vauxi Vaux's swift	none	species of special concern	Vasona, Anderson, Stevens Creek
Euphydryas editha bayensis Bay checkerspot butterfly	threatened	none	1 mile north of Calero, Anderson
Felis concolor Mountain lion	none	specially protected mammal	Almaden Quicksilver Park, Anderson, Coyote, Guadalupe, Lexington
Haliaeetus leucocephalus Bald eagle	endangered	endangered	Anderson, Coyote
Hydrochara ricksecкeri Ricksecker's water scavenger beetle	C2	none	
Lanius ludovicianus Loggerhead shrike	C2	species of special concern	Chesbro
Pandion haliaetus Osprey	none	none	Calero
Rana boylii Foothill yellow-legged frog	C2	species of special concern	north of Lexington in upper Los Gatos Creek
Clemmys marmorata pallida Southwestern Pond Turtle	C2	species of special concern	Potentially occurs in Almaden, Anderson, Calero, Coyote reservoir, Chesbro, Guadalupe, Lexington, Stevens, Uvas. Western pond turtle (Clemmys marmorata) is known from these parks.
Rana aurora draytoni California red-legged frog	proposed endangered	species of special concern	Anderson, Lexington; potentially occurs in all parks

Status Code: Federal C1 = sufficient biological data to support a proposal to list taxa as endangered or threatened
Federal C2 = existing information indicates taxa may warrant listing, but substantial biological information necessary to support a proposed rule is lacking.

4. Introduction of exotic or invasive animal species into an area or result in a barrier to the migration or movement of animals?

a. Stocking of Trout

All Parks: As part of the recreational experience, the *California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG)* ~~SCCPRD~~ does stock several of the ~~Reservoirs~~ *lease area reservoirs* ~~in the spring~~ with *hatchery-bred rainbow* trout. As temperatures rise, the lower elevation lakes warm *above the normal tolerance levels of rainbow trout and mortality of the stocked fish increase. The stocked trout have been pellet fed in the hatchery and do not readily adapt to foraging for other food sources (Mark Jennings, Ph.D., personal communication). Both a high mortality and a high catch rate by the fishing public contribute to low survivability of stocked rainbow trout (Sid Poe, CDFG).* ~~and trout do not survive.~~ *Some stocked trout, perhaps a very low percentage, could survive especially* ~~Trout do survive~~ in the upper elevation and deeper reservoirs such as Coyote Reservoir (*Mark Jennings, Ph.D, personal communication; Allison Willy, USFWS).*

The hatchery-bred trout would ~~not~~ be considered an invasive or exotic species in these environments *(Allison Willy, USFWS; Mark Littlefield, USFWS; Mark Jennings, Ph.D. H.T. Harvey & Associates). In addition, the introduced trout could prey on larvae or eggs of the red-legged frog, a species proposed for listing as endangered or threatened under the Federal Endangered Species Act (Mark Jennings, Ph.D, personal communication; Allison Willy, USFWS). The stocking of rainbow trout in reservoirs or percolation ponds with populations of red-legged frog could adversely impact red-legged frog populations.*

"Take" is defined by the Endangered Species Act. In addition to direct harm to a species take may also include significant habitat modification or degradation where which actually kills or injures wildlife by significantly impairing essential behavorial patterns, including breeding, feeding or shelter (50 CFR § 17.3). Allowing the introduction of bait fish may contribute to a "take" under this latter definition.

In light of the possible listing of the species as endangered or threatened, and its current listing as a California Species of Special Concern, banning the use of live bait fish within the County Parks containing SCVWD lease areas would reduce adverse impacts to the red-legged frog. The following mitigation measures are proposed to address this adverse impact.

Impact: ***Use of live bait fish by the fishing public at the lease area reservoirs and percolation ponds potentially increases the risk of adverse impact to the red-legged frog, a species proposed for listing under the Federal Endangered Species Act.***

Parks: *ALL PARKS*

Mitigation: *Within 12 months of the approval of the lease agreement the Santa Clara County Parks and Recreation Commission shall petition the State Fish and Game Commission to amend the California Sport Fishing*

Regulations, Article 3, Section 4.20 (4) to include a prohibition on the use of live bait fish in the lease area reservoirs and percolation ponds.

If the California Fish and Game Commission amends the California Sport Fishing Regulations as requested by the Parks and Recreation Commission, the following actions shall be effected:

1. *The SCCPRD shall coordinate with the CDFG for the posting of temporary signing noticing the ban on bait fish. Temporary signing shall be posted at entrances and principal access areas to Parks.*
2. *The SCCPRD shall coordinate with the CDFG in the development of a notice announcing the ban on bait fish at lease area reservoirs. The notice shall be mailed to all Santa Clara County outlets for live bait fish for posting.*
3. *The Santa Clara County Parks and Recreation Department shall coordinate with CDFG in the development of a permanent signing program incorporating interpretive and regulatory information about the bait fish ban.*

Effect: *Should reduce the potential for impacts on the red-legged frog from activities conducted pursuant to the lease agreement.*

Implementation: *Attached as a condition of the proposed lease.*

Monitoring: *SCCPRD Lease Status Report*

~~The concessionaire at Parkway Lakes stocks other fish species but California Department of Fish and Game normally inspects facilities to insure that dams are screened to prevent accidental escape of stocked fish species.~~

~~If the Red-legged frog is listed as a Federally endangered or threatened species, the impacts of predation by stocked fish on tadpoles would need to be assessed.~~

~~Stocking of fish in County reservoirs does not result in a significant adverse introduction of invasive animal species.~~

5. Loss or deterioration of existing fish or wildlife habitat?

All Parks: The continuation of the lease agreement continues management of the areas by the SCCPRD. Many of these park areas will be the subject of future resource management plans during the life of the lease agreement. Implementation of resource management plans along with continued park stewardship should have an overall beneficial impact on existing fish and wildlife habitat.

Coyote Percolation Pond: *No recreation program has yet been developed for this area north of Parkway Lakes. To assure that any recreational activities permitted or planned for this area will not adversely impact animal and plant species or sensitive habitats, the following mitigation measure is proposed:*

Impact: *Recreational activities, such as fish stocking for recreational fishing or water skiing, could have an adverse impact on aquatic life at Coyote Percolation Pond.*

Parks: *COYOTE PERCOLATION POND*

Mitigation: *Prior to the granting of any special use permits, or the development of a park use plan, an environmental assessment of the proposed use on the Coyote Percolation Pond lease area shall be completed.*

Effect: *Should identify potential impacts and constraints within the lease area and avoid significant adverse impacts to animals, plants and sensitive habitats.*

Implementation: *Attached as a condition of the proposed lease.*

Monitoring: *SCCPRD Lease Status Report; a copy of the environmental assessment of the proposed use shall be attached.*

Project approval would not result in the loss or deterioration of any existing fish or wildlife habitat.

4.E. LAND USE/COMMUNITY PLANS AND VALUES

1. Any substantial changes in the present land use, either on or off the project site?

The subject of this initial study is the approval of a lease agreement by the SCVWD which grants management of 12 SCVWD reservoirs and percolation ponds to the SCCPRD to be managed for public recreational use for a period of 15 years. Of the 12 facilities, 11 are currently managed by the SCCPRD under existing lease agreements.

The signing of the new lease agreement would continue present uses in those 11 areas and would not result in any substantial change in present land use, either on or off the site, but would continue the present land use for an additional 15 years.

The one parcel which has not previously been included in a lease between the SCVWD and the SCCPRD is the Coyote Percolation Pond, a small impoundment within the operational boundaries of Coyote Creek County Park. The pond is north of the area called Parkway Lakes which is leased by the SCCPRD to a private concessionaire. The Parkway Lakes concession allows fishing in the recharge pond directly north of Metcalf Road and east of Highway 101. The concessionaire also has non-motorized boats for rent to the public. A day use fee and a fishing fee are charged.

The Parkway Lakes lease does not include recreational use of the Coyote Percolation Pond. The southern levee of Coyote Percolation Pond is breached and the SCVWD pond combines with an elongated pond located on the southern boundary of the Coyote Creek County Park. This southern pond is also not part of the current Parkway Lakes lease and is not used for recreation. A string of buoys marks the southeastern boundary of the Coyote Creek Percolation Pond. The current lease agreement between the SCCPRD and Mountain Fisheries, the company leasing Parkway Lakes, runs until the year 2003 when it options for renewal. Coyote Percolation Pond would not be added to the Parkway Lakes lease and no recreational use of Coyote Percolation Pond is expected under the life of the SCVWD\SCCPRD lease agreement. If requested by the public, an application for special event usage of Coyote Percolation Pond would be reviewed by the SCCPRD but no regular use of the Pond is foreseen (D. Logan, SCCPRD). No change in current land use, either on or off site, would result from project approval.

No substantial changes in the present land use, either on or off the project site would result from project approval.

2. Alteration or nonconformance with regional, federal, state, or local land use or environmental plans and policies that apply to the project and vicinity? (Response is combined with response to item E.3 following).

3. Conflict or inconsistency with adopted zoning, policies, plans and goals of the community in the project vicinity?
(Responses to Questions 2 and 3 are combined)

The renewal of the lease agreement which extends recreational use of SCVWD district reservoirs and adjacent lands for an additional 15 years is in conformance with regional, federal, state and local land use and environmental plans and policies. The lease agreement complies with current zoning and General Plan designations for both the lease areas and adjacent lands. The discussion following addresses the conformance of the lease renewal to the plans and policies of specific agencies and jurisdictions.

a. State

California Department of Health Services

The California Department of Health Services is the permitting agency for drinking water suppliers in the State. The Department issues permits with specific requirements and conditions for each water district. The SCVWD operates under a permit issued in 1988 that allows the SCVWD to act as a domestic water provider. The permit specifies which water source and facilities may be used for potable water sources by the SCVWD. The permit also approved changes to water treatment facilities used by the SCVWD. The 1988 permit identified Almaden, Calero, Anderson and Coyote as water supply reservoirs. The permit also establishes water quality monitoring programs and water quality standards.

Division 5, Part 1, Chapter 8, Sections 4050 through Section 4053 of the California Administrative Code, Health and Safety Code, excludes bodily contact recreation from reservoirs used for domestic water supplies while allowing other forms of non-contact recreation to be allowed. The DHS is the government agency charged with enforcement of these sections of the Health and Safety Code. Accordingly, the DHS has restricted recreational uses at Calero, Coyote and Anderson to limited bodily contact water recreation. This restriction is enforced by the SCCPRD in its management of these reservoirs by signing, public information and enforcement. The DHS required the SCVWD to develop an Emergency Reservoir Operation Plan to halt limited contact recreation in the event of a water quality or water quantity emergency. The SCVWD and the SCCPRD have developed a response plan that meets DHS approval.

The DHS has also directed the SCVWD to draft management plans regarding water quality impacts from the operation of the Calero Ranch Stables, a concession operating under a lease agreement with the SCCPRD. SCVWD presented its preliminary plan to the DHS and continues to monitor Calero Reservoir water quality. A final stable management plan, also a DHS requirement, will be developed as a component of the Comprehensive Reservoir Watershed Management Plan currently being prepared by the SCVWD.

Renewal of the lease agreement would allow continuation of recreational activities which are in compliance with current DHS requirements.

b. Regional

Regional Water Quality Control Board

The Regional Water Quality Control Boards are responsible for the water quality planning of a demarcated water basin. Water released from Uvas and Chesbro Reservoirs at the southern end of the County flow south to the Pajaro River and are in the Central Coastal Basin, Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) District 3. Water Quality planning for the remaining ten reservoirs fall under the jurisdiction of the Regional Water Quality Control Board 2.

The RWQCB has defined water quality objectives for inland surface waters, and identified beneficial uses for each of ten reservoirs involved in the lease renewal agreement. Beneficial uses were not identified for the two SCVWD percolation ponds used for groundwater recharge which are included in the lease agreement. Recreational use is identified as a beneficial use by the RWQCB for each of the ten reservoirs.

Renewal of the lease agreement would be in conformance with beneficial uses identified by the RWQCB for the SCVWD reservoirs included in the lease renewal.

c. Local

Santa Clara Valley Water District Ordinance 83-2

Ordinance 83-2 is one of the SCVWD's primary ordinances. It outlines the responsibilities of the SCVWD regarding flood control and water supply and establishes the SCVWD responsibility for water quality in the domestic water supply, the reservoirs and the watercourses. It further assigns responsibility for the construction and maintenance of related facilities to the SCVWD. Ordinance 83-2 encourages joint use of projects, such as the lease agreement which is the subject of this Initial Study. The Ordinance prohibits pollution of SCVWD water supplies and sources, including reservoirs, as a result of any activity including public recreation. Under Ordinance 83-2, the SCCPRD must obtain a permit from the SCVWD for improvements, revegetation projects or activities in the reservoir parks which take place on lease lands or watercourses which flow into SCVWD reservoirs.

The SCCPRD has successfully complied with the requirements of this Ordinance in the past. Recreational use of SCVWD reservoirs and lands does not cause the SCVWD to violate the responsibilities set forth in Ordinance 83-2. If, in the future, the SCVWD determines certain public recreation activities result in a significant adverse environmental impact or violation of regulations at one or more of the lease areas, the SCVWD has recourse under the lease agreement to demand compliance with regulations or resolution of problem issues. Section 1(c) of the proposed lease agreement states:

> "COUNTY shall observe all statutes, laws, ordinances and regulations applicable to its responsibility assumed under this Lease. In the event that COUNTY is in violation of any provision of this Lease, DISTRICT shall provide COUNTY written notice of the specific violation and a ninety-day period, or such time as is reasonably necessary (which may be less or more than 90 days depending on the necessity for cure), to cure the violation, or to alleviate any threat to public health or safety."

As the primary mandate of the SCVWD is the supply of drinking water to its constituents, the SCVWD also has authority to limit recreation at the lease areas in order to comply with Department of Health Services, Regional Water Quality Control Board or SCVWD standards. The proposed lease agreement, in Section 3(c) states:

> "DISTRICT shall have the right to limit or restrict the type, intensity, or location of recreational use as necessary to meet any Department of Health Services, Regional Board, or District policies, requirements or regulations regarding the quality of drinking water supply sources. This right to limit or restrict the type or location of recreational use as reasonably necessary shall be exercised when the DISTRICT determines that there is or threatens to be a significant degradation of water quality associated with recreational activity. Prior to effecting any limitations or restrictions, DISTRICT shall first convey immediately to COUNTY notice in writing of the specific reasons which necessitate such action. The notice shall be given not later than thirty (30) days prior to effecting such limitations or restrictions or a shorter time if reasonably required by the authority."

The lease agreement language grants the SCVWD the authority to limit or restrict public recreation in the lease areas if recreation could interfere with the primary mandates of the SCVWD.

The extension of the recreational lease of SCVWD reservoirs and lands would be in conformance with Santa Clara Valley Water District Ordinance 83-2.

Santa Clara County Code Section B14, Park and Recreation Regulations

These regulations establish who may use the parks, what uses are allowed and under what conditions, use fees to be charged and the process for obtaining the use of the parks.

Certain Park and Recreation regulations can help SCCPRD staff manage lease lands for the best protection of water quality, the primary mandate of the SCVWD and reduce environmental impacts within the lease areas. Park ordinances address protection of wildlife and plants, protection of cultural resources, generation of loud noise, prevention of wild fires, low boat speed areas, and boating safety.

Regulations which help maintain SCVWD reservoir water quality address restrictions on recreational uses of reservoirs, sanitation, pollution, designation of special use areas and prohibition on grazing in park lands.

The extension of the SCVWD/SCCPRD lease would be in conformance with the regulations set forth in the Santa Clara County Code Section B14 which governs use of the reservoirs for public recreation.

Santa Clara County General Plan

Eight of the 12 reservoirs and percolation ponds that are the subject of this lease agreement are in areas of unincorporated Santa Clara County. Land use planning in unincorporated Santa Clara County is directed by the plans and policies of the Santa Clara County General Plan.

Santa Clara County General Plan Designations. Defining the following General Plan Land Use Designations will facilitate the discussion of conformance with adopted plans and zoning both for the project and the project vicinity.

Hillside Areas Description (Land Use Map Policy 1.18): Mountainous lands unplanned or unsuited for city development which shall be preserved in an open condition with uses which support and enhance a rural character, which protect and promote wise use of natural resources, and which avoid the risks imposed by natural hazards found in these areas.

Existing Regional Parks Description (Land Use Map Policy 1.62): Parks of the County, Cities, State of California and Federal Government which serve a region-wide population.

Other Public Open Lands Description (Land Use Map Policy 1.64): Lands in Open Space uses which are owned by various public agencies for purposes other than general public parks and recreation. While some areas may be open to public access, others are not available for access and use by the general public, though they may be available on a permit basis.

Ranchlands Description (Land Use Map Policy 1.36): Lands which are predominately used as ranches in areas which are far from the urban portions of the county. These lands are watersheds and provide such important resources as grazing lands, minerals, forests, animal habitat, rare or locally unique plant and animal communities, historic and archaeologic sites, areas of scenic beauty, and recreational areas.

SCVWD/SCCPRD Lease Areas Designations. The following discussion of adjacent land use designations is taken from Santa Clara County Land Use Plan Map adopted November 18, 1980 and amended February 15, 1991.

Almaden Reservoir: Under the Resource Conservation Zoning of the Santa Clara County General Plan, lands south and west of Almaden Reservoir, including the community of Twin Creeks, are designated Hillsides. Lands north of Almaden

Reservoir are designated as Existing Regional Parks and are within Almaden Quicksilver County Park.

Anderson Reservoir: Lands to the south of Anderson Reservoir, including the Holiday Lake Estates area are designated Hillsides. A portion of the shoreline north of Holiday Lakes is within the urban service boundary of the City of Morgan Hill. Lands east of the lease area are designated as Ranchlands. The boat-in area of Anderson Lake County Park, which is outside of the lease area, and the lease area itself are designated as Existing Regional Park.

Chesbro Reservoir: The lease area, which includes the entire SCCPRD operational area, is designated as Existing Regional Park. Lands adjacent to the western half of the Reservoir are designated Ranchlands and lands to the east are designated as Hillsides.

Coyote Reservoir: The lease area, which includes all of Coyote Lake Park is designated as Existing Regional Park. On the southern boundary, a rural residential area is designated as Hillsides. The remainder of adjacent lands which surround the Reservoir are designated as Ranchlands.

Guadalupe Reservoir: Guadalupe Reservoir and all of Almaden Quicksilver County Park which border the entire northern length of the Reservoir are designated as Existing Regional Park. Lands south of the Reservoir and Hicks Road are designated as Hillsides and contain very low density residential development.

Lexington Reservoir: Lexington Reservoir is designated as Existing Regional Park and all surrounding lands are designated as Hillsides. There are extensive residential communities south of the Reservoir and smaller communities on the southwestern shore of the Reservoir.

Stevens Creek Reservoir: The lease area of Stevens Creek Reservoir is bordered to the east and west by lands of Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District which are designated as Other Public Open Lands by the County General Plan. North and south of the lease area is Stevens Creek County Park which, along with the reservoir is designated as Existing Regional Park.

Uvas Reservoir: West and southeast of the Uvas Reservoir, adjacent lands are designated as Hillsides. Lands to the northeast are designated as Ranchlands. The lease area is Existing Regional Park.

Santa Clara County General Plan Conformance. The renewal of the lease extending recreational activities at the 12 facilities for 15 years is in conformance with the General Plan policies of the Santa Clara County.

The lease renewal project would promote the goals of the following General Plan Water Resource policies which address issues pertinent to the project:

> **NE 25**: Allowable uses within wetlands shall include such natural features as bay waters and sloughs, marshes, wildlife habitat and open space, as well

as human uses such as salt ponds, small piers and walkways, wildlife observation, walking, horseback riding, bicycling, fishing, boating, education, swimming, limited hunting, aqua culture and marinas. Marina locations in wetland areas should be considered only after upland alternatives have been found to be infeasible.

NE 33: Where possible, riparian woodlands, marshes and flood plains which have been altered should be allowed to return to a natural state.

NE 36: Public projects should preserve the stream environment and should provide multiple use for such purposes as parks, open space preserves, trails and flood control.

NE 39: Within [creek and stream] these buffer areas, the following restrictions should apply to public projects and private non-residential development:

D) Protect wildlife and endangered plant species within the area.
E) Provide for trails and other compatible recreational uses when indicated in the County or city General Plans.

The lease renewal project would promote the goals of the following General Plan Transportation and Recreation policies which address issues pertinent to the project:

TR 17: A bicycle transit system that is safe for the user should be provided which will provide for the travel needs of bicyclists.

RC 3: Parks and recreation system planning, acquisition, development and operation should be coordinated among cities, the County, State and Federal governments, school districts and special districts, and should take advantage of opportunities for linkages between adjacent publicly owned parks and open space lands.

RC 7: Provision should be made for compatible recreational use of water resource facilities, utility corridors and reclaimed solid waste disposal sites, where feasible.

RC 12: County government shall encourage and cooperate with cities, special districts, other appropriate agencies and organizations, and private landowners in acknowledging and preserving the county's cultural heritage, and historical and archeological structures, sites and landmarks.

RC 14: The effective use of existing resources and the development of potential resources shall be promoted to meet the cultural and recreational needs of the County. The County and cities should act to preserve land serving a unique community purpose which would be lost through urbanization (i/e., lands supporting riding and boarding stables).

Use of the SCVWD reservoirs for public recreation is also in compliance with "A Plan for Regional Parks for Santa Clara County" drafted in 1972 by the Santa Clara County Planning Department. All twelve areas that are the subject of the SCVWD/SCCPRD lease were included in this original park planning document.

The General Plan relies on the provision of recreation and open space in existing regional parks when planning for the future expansion of greenbelt areas. Many of the lands which currently are very low or low density residential are designated as Hillsides in the General Plan, a category which provides for the accruement of further open space areas, contiguous with existing regional parks, if development is proposed. The following General Plan policy directs development for Hillside areas and allows for the extension of open space adjacent to existing Parks:

Hillsides Land Use Map Policy 1.34: At least 90% of the gross land area shall be permanently preserved as open space through easements and shall be configured as large, usable and contiguous areas.

City General Plans

Four reservoirs are within the jurisdictions of incorporated cities in Santa Clara County. Vasona Reservoir is within the Town of Los Gatos, Los Gatos Creek Park is in the City of Campbell and Calero Reservoir and the Coyote Percolation Pond are in the City of San Jose.

Calero Reservoir: The SCVWD lease area surrounding Calero Reservoir is within the City of San Jose. The lease area is designated as Public Park/Open Space in the City's Horizon 2000 General Plan. Lands north of McKean Road are within Santa Clara County and are designated Hillsides. Land use north of the lease area is primarily grazing and low density residential.

Use of Calero Reservoir for recreation is in compliance with the following Horizon 2000 General Plan Policy regarding regional parks with City limits:

> E.2.8: The City encourages the County and other appropriate jurisdictions to direct the expenditure of regional park funds to provide parks and other open space lands and recreational resources within, or in close proximity to, the urban population.

Coyote Percolation Pond: The Coyote Percolation Pond is within an undeveloped section of Coyote Creek County Park north and adjacent to the Parkway Lakes concession area. Coyote Creek County Park is designated as Public Park/Open Space in the San Jose Horizon 2000 General Plan. The residential area recently built between Coyote Creek County Park and Monterey Road is designated as Commercial/Industrial in the City's General Plan, a designation that also allows residential development (Larry Bohanon, San Jose Planning Department).

The presence of County parks within the City of San Jose is an aid to meeting the City's General Plan goals for provision of 7.5 acres of regional/City-wide parklands per 1,000 population (Horizon 2000, page 53).

Inclusion of the Coyote Percolation Pond into the overall management of the Coyote Creek County Park is in conformance Policy E.2.8, cited above, and with the following San Jose General Plan policy:

> E.2.7: The City encourages the Santa Clara Valley Water District, school districts, the Pacific Gas and Electric Company and other public agencies and utilities to provide for appropriate recreational uses of their respective properties and rights-of-way.

Los Gatos Percolation Ponds: The Los Gatos Percolation Ponds are within the Los Gatos County Park that lies within the City of Campbell. The County is responsible for management and planning for Los Gatos County Park. Adjacent lands to the north and west are also in the City of Campbell and are primarily light manufacturing, research and development and warehouse uses. Adjacent lands to the south are within the Town of Los Gatos and are single family residential. In the City of Campbell General Plan, Los Gatos Creek Park is designated under the category Public/Semi-public lands and zoned Public Facilities/Open Space. The current recreational uses at Los Gatos Creek Park are in compliance with the Campbell General Plan (C. Banks, City of Campbell, Planner II).

Vasona Reservoir: The Park is bounded by Highway 17 to the east, single family residential to the north and northwest, multi-family and single family residential to the west, light industrial to the southwest and a mix of light industrial, commercial and multi-family residential to the south. Vasona Park, including the lease area, is designated as Resource Conservation in the Los Gatos General Plan. Recreational uses at Vasona Park are consistent with this General Plan designation (K. Heinrichs, Los Gatos Planning Department).

Santa Clara County Zoning Ordinance

The Santa Clara County Zoning Ordinance implements the policies and land use designations set forth in the Santa Clara County General Plan. County zoning categories normally conform with the equivalent General Plan designations assigned to parcels. For example, parcels designated as Hillsides under the General Plan normally are assigned a zoning designation of HS or Hillside and meet the requirements under that section of the Zoning Ordinance. Ranchlands are most commonly assigned the zoning designation of AR Agricultural Ranchlands. The extension of the recreational lease agreement would not affect current zoning designations of adjacent parcels, and no change in land use would result from the lease approval.

Zoning designations applied to lands adjacent to lease areas would not be altered by the renewal of the lease agreement.

4. Deterioration of the surrounding neighborhoods' integrity or quality (e.g., loss of privacy or security to residents over the long term)?

Almaden Reservoir: The Twin Creeks community is at the extreme western end of Almaden Reservoir primarily near the juncture where Herbert and Barret Creeks form Alamitos Creek. Most of the 60 homes in the community date from the early 1900's, predating the construction of Almaden Reservoir. The only recreational use allowed at Almaden Reservoir is fishing which is primarily concentrated at the eastern end of the Reservoir near the dam and at turnouts along Alamitos Road. Recreational use at the western of Almaden Reservoir is rare. The SCCPRD has not received complaints of trespassing or other disturbances from residents of the Twin Creeks community.

Anderson Reservoir: The Holiday Lake Estates community is on the southwestern shore of Anderson Reservoir. Homes closest to the Reservoir are in unincorporated Santa Clara County. Homes further up the slope and away from the Reservoir are within the City of Morgan Hill. The City of Morgan Hill does not report any ongoing record of complaints from the residential neighborhood within City limits (C. Furnare, Morgan Hill PD).

Residents of the unincorporated lakeshore area of Holiday Estates have complained to the SCCPRD about noise from motorboats launched when the Park opens at 8:00 am and late night fishing parties in the Woodchopper's Flat area (H. Giretti, SCCPRD). In order to avoid landuse conflicts between the residents and Park day users, the Santa Clara County-owned ramp on the lakeshore Holiday Lake Estates shoreline is gated and no boat launching is allowed.

Calero Reservoir: Land use north of McKean Road opposite the Calero Reservoir lease area is primarily agricultural and rural residential. There is no record of land use conflicts between the recreational and residential/agricultural uses (Sgt. Bill Gray, Santa Clara County Sheriff Department). No deterioration of neighborhood integrity would result from project approval.

Chesbro Reservoir: Chesbro Reservoir and lease lands are in a rural residential area. There is no record of complaints from these residents regarding the recreational use of the lease lands. No deterioration of the rural residential environment would result from project approval.

Coyote Percolation Pond: The Coyote Percolation Pond is within the jurisdiction of the City of San Jose. A small residential community has recently been built along the southern boundary of Coyote Creek County Park in the vicinity of the Coyote Percolation Pond. The Coyote Creek Trail lies between the residential area and the Coyote Percolation Pond. There are no recognized conflicts between this new residential area and the Parkway Lakes operation (Lieutenant Woodal, San Jose Police Department). As the inclusion of the Coyote Percolation Pond in the overall reservoir lease agreement would not result in any changes in existing Parkway Lakes operations, no deterioration in the residential neighborhood adjacent to Coyote Percolation Pond would result from project approval.

Coyote Reservoir: There are no residential communities adjacent to the lease areas at Coyote Lake County Park so no deterioration of a residential community's integrity would result from project approval.

Guadalupe Reservoir: Visitor use at Guadalupe Reservoir is very low and there is only one residence directly opposite the Reservoir along Hicks Road. There is no record of complaints between the rural residential community along Hicks Road and recreational use at Guadalupe Reservoir (Sgt. Bill Gray, Santa Clara County Sheriffs Department). No deterioration of the rural residential environment at Guadalupe Reservoir would result from project approval.

Lexington Reservoir: Residents of the Aldercroft Heights neighborhood on the southwestern shore of Lexington Reservoir have complained to the SCCPRD about incidences of illegal parking on their private roads and minor incidences of trespassing (L. Killough, SCCPRD). In particular, park visitors have been using private Oakmont Road for reservoir access. Oakmont Road is not a public road or a privately-owned road maintained by the County. It is the responsibility of the homeowner's association to clearly mark the entrance to Oakmont Road from Old Santa Cruz Highway as a private road with authorized access only and no reservoir access to the public. Signing the entrance to Oakmont Road should reduce unauthorized vehicle traffic and unwanted visitor/resident contacts.

In prior years, residents of the wide community surrounding Lexington Reservoir had complained to the SCCPRD about noise generated by the motorboats. The SCCPRD responded to these complaints and no longer permits motorized boating at Lexington Reservoir.

Los Gatos Percolation Ponds: The Los Gatos Percolation Ponds are in the Town of Los Gatos and are referred to as Los Gatos Creek Park. Lands to the north and west are within the City of Campbell and are primarily light manufacturing, research and development and warehouse uses. Adjacent lands to the south are within the Town of Los Gatos and are single family residential (K. Heinrichs, Los Gatos Planning Department). There have been occasional complaints from residents in this Mozart Way/Oka Lane neighborhood regarding afterhours use in the southern end of the Park. The afterhours use is against Park regulations and is not a factor of SCCPRD management of the lease area.

Stevens Creek Reservoir: There is no neighborhood directly adjacent to the SCVWD lease lands. Surrounding residential areas are adjacent to lands under the direct administration of the SCCPRD. The extension of the lease agreement would not directly impact any existing residential neighborhoods.

Uvas Reservoir: Uvas Reservoir and adjacent lease lands are in a rural residential area of unincorporated Santa Clara County. One single family residence is adjacent to the lease area on a knoll north of the public parking area. Another residence is directly across Uvas Road from the public parking area. In the past, complaints were received from these residences regarding late night use of the parking area. Visitors also occasionally asked to use the resident's telephone. In response to these complaints, the SCVWD installed a gate and locks the parking area at sunset. A telephone was also installed at the parking area. There are no other issues which have been brought to the attention of the SCCPRD (H. Giretti, SCCPRD). The extension of the lease agreement would not result in the deterioration of neighborhood integrity in the Uvas Reservoir vicinity.

Vasona Reservoir: Vasona Reservoir is within the City of Los Gatos. The lease area is restricted to the reservoir and lands directly bordering the Reservoir. The lease area does not extend south of the Vasona Park Road in the Park interior. The Park is bounded by Highway 17 to the east, single family residential to the north and northwest, multi-family and single family residential to the west, light industrial to the southwest and a mix of light industrial, commercial and multi-family residential to the south. Park visitors sometimes park on residential streets in the Garden Hill neighborhood north of Vasona Park on busy weekends (K. Heinrichs, City of Los Gatos). Visitors are parking in legal spaces but residents of the Garden Hill area do complain to the City about the occasional influx. Recreational use at this end of the Reservoir would be primarily fishing in the vicinity of the dam or trail users on the Los Gatos Creek trail which passes through this neighborhood before entering Vasona Park.

The SCCPRD does not promote the Garden Hill Drive area as an established Park access point. The Town of Los Gatos prohibits parking at the southern end of Garden Hill to discourage regular use of the area for Park entry. As the activity is legal and restricted primarily to holiday weekends, the integrity of the neighborhood could not be considered in jeopardy nor can the conflict of residential/recreational land uses be considered significant.

5. Conflict with established agriculture, recreational, educational, religious, or scientific uses in the project area?

All Parks: Extension of the lease agreement for the 12 reservoir sites would not interfere with established recreational, education, religious or scientific uses ongoing in the vicinity of the reservoirs. In many cases, SCCPRD lands have stimulated the purchase of adjacent lands by other public agencies in order to increase recreational or open space holdings and control urban sprawl. Fremont Older Open Space Preserve and Pichetti Open Space Preserve have more value due to their adjacency to Stevens Creek County Park. Sierra Azul Open Space Preserve links Lexington Reservoir County Park expanding recreational opportunities for equestrians and hikers.

Agricultural uses adjacent to the lease areas have resulted in past conflicts between maintenance of water quality and agriculture, particularly from grazing cattle within the watersheds of the four terminal reservoirs--Almaden, Calero, Anderson and Coyote. The California Department of Health Services, in approving a 1990 Watershed Management Plan for these four reservoirs, requested that the SCVWD prepare a plan that would restrict access by cattle to the waters of the terminal reservoirs. The resultant Cattle Management Plan (SCVWD 1993) concluded that "cattle at these watersheds have not affected the District's ability to provide safe drinking water to County residents to date". The report found that cattle grazing near the reservoirs did have the potential to become a threat to water quality.

There would be some alteration of current grazing practices, perhaps in the form of fencing of major tributaries and/or the provision of buffer strips along water resources when the Comprehensive Reservoir Watershed Management Plan is completed in the next three years. At present, the SCVWD continues an intensive water quality monitoring program and the compilation of baseline information about agricultural practices in the watershed.

Currently, the level of agricultural use at the terminal reservoirs has not impacted water quality though the potential for impact exists. This potential has been addressed in the Cattle Management Plan and will be further addressed in the Comprehensive Reservoir Watershed Management Plan. The issue is essentially agricultural impacts on water quality. There are no defined agricultural impacts on recreational use of the reservoirs nor does recreational use curtail grazing on private lands. Renewal of the lease agreement extending recreational use at the reservoirs would not affect current agricultural practices. These practices may need to be modified in the future, but in response to water quality issues, not recreational use.

4.F. ECONOMICS

1. **Economic or population growth, either directly or indirectly, in the project vicinity (especially if faster than planned)?**
(Response to Item F.1 is combined with responses to Item F.3 following)

2. **Removal of a major constraint or obstacle to growth?**

(Response to Item F.2 is combined with responses to Item F.3 following)

3. **Decreased employment in the surrounding community?**
(Combined responses to Items F.1, F.2 and F.3).

All Parks: Renewal of the lease would not have any effect upon population growth or employment in the area. **There would be no significant impacts.**

4. **Reduced acreage or yield of an agricultural crop or prime farmlands?**

All Parks: Agricultural crops or prime farmlands are not found within the areas covered by the lease agreement. As such, continuation of recreational activities in and around the reservoirs would not affect these type of lands. **There would be no significant impacts.**

4.G. POPULATION

1. Alteration of the location, distribution, character, density, or growth rate of the surrounding human population?

All Parks: Renewal of the lease would not affect any characteristics of the surrounding human population. **There would be no significant impacts.**

4.H. HOUSING/RELOCATION

1. Displacement of existing housing or businesses in the project vicinity?

Questions 1, 2 and 3 are combined below.

2. Demand for additional housing in the project vicinity?

See below.

3. Changes in the type or cost of housing in the project vicinity?

All Parks: Renewal of the lease would not displace, create a demand for, or change types of housing which surround any lease area. **There would be no significant impacts.**

4.I. TRANSPORTATION

1. Adverse impact upon existing transportation systems including the generation of substantial additional vehicular traffic?

All Parks: Existing traffic levels do not create adverse conditions for the local transportation system. Continuation of the lease would not substantially increase vehicular traffic in the area, nor would it impact the existing system. **There would be no impacts.**

2. Reduction in existing parking facilities or create a demand for new parking?

All Parks: Use of the lease areas is not expected to change, and attendance at parks is not anticipated to increase as a result of lease renewal. **There would be no impacts.**

3. Alterations to present patterns of circulation or movement of people and/or goods?

All Parks: The present pattern of circulation would not be affected by lease renewal. **There would be no impacts.**

4. Increase in traffic hazards to motor vehicles, bicyclists, or pedestrians from design features (e.g. sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g. farm equipment)?

Almaden, Anderson, Calero, Chesbro, Coyote Percolation Ponds, Guadalupe, Los Gatos Percolation Ponds, Stevens Creek, Uvas: **There would be no impacts.**

Coyote: In the vicinity of the sandy beach, the park road is inadequately signed in a very narrow area, creating a potential public safety hazard. Overall, the road is inadequately signed for the speed limit. To reduce potential safety problems, the following good practice measure is recommended.

Good Practice: **SCCPRD should coordinate with the SCCTA to provide warning signs, speed limit signs and guardrails where deemed necessary.**

Lexington Reservoir: Traffic hazards currently exist for park visitors and residents travelling south on Highway 17 who need to make a left turn to enter the park. This hazard has been a concern of local community groups for over 10 years. State funds were appropriated to finance an overpass to accomplish this goal, and the interim interchange project is scheduled to begin construction in 1994. The Bear Creek Road overpass is a full interchange with both ingress and egress access on both sides of the highway. The ability to make a left hand turn into the park will be eliminated with the project.

In addition to the interchange, eastern and western frontage roads paralleling the highway will provide connections to the Bear Creek Road interchange. The eastern frontage road will connect Old Santa Cruz Highway to the interchange, and it will provide non-vehicular access to the park via a 10-foot wide graded area. The western frontage road connects Montavina, Black and Bear Creek Roads to the interchange, and contains an 8-foot shoulder for bike lanes. The overpass will be constructed with 2 bike lanes and an elevated sidewalk for pedestrians and equestrians (Lisa Killough, SCCPRD).

Visitors leaving the park and heading north on Highway 17 will not use the interchange, and will need to continue to quickly accelerate into traffic. Because of existing acceleration lanes, this impact is not considered a significant hazard.

There are no impacts to public safety from traffic associated with lease renewal.

Stevens Creek: There is a hazardous left hand turn heading southbound on Stevens Canyon Road into the Lakeshore day use area. While this is not a significant impact, the following good practice measure is recommended to reduce potential public safety hazards.

Good Practice: **The SCCPRD should arrange with SCCTA for an alternative route to the current left hand turn. One possible alternative includes directing traffic for this day use area into a safer area.**

Vasona Reservoir: Vehicles on the park road at Los Gatos Creek bridge occasionally fail to stop at the existing stop signs creating a potential safety hazard. While this is not considered a significant impact, the following good practice measure is recommended to reduce public safety hazards.

Good Practice: **The speed bumps on the entrance road approaching the bridge should be brightly colored and high enough to attract a driver's attention. The SCCPRD should install stop signs at the intersection of the pedestrian crossings should be placed on either side of the road to attract the attention of sightseeing drivers. Trail intersections should also be clearly marked for stops and vehicle traffic ahead.**

5. Interference with access to commercial establishments, schools, parks, etc.?

All Parks: Traffic associated with recreational activities at the lease sites does not interfere with the access to any nearby establishments. **There would be no significant impacts related to lease renewal.**

6. Conflicts with adopted policies supporting alternative transportation (e.g. bus turnouts, bicycle racks)?

All Parks: Existing recreational uses at the lease sites do not conflict with any alternative transportation policies. Many of the sites are accessed via bicycle and pedestrian trails which reduces automobile use; this is consistent with such policies. Continuation of the lease would not alter this condition. **There would be no significant impacts.**

7. Rail, waterborne or air traffic impacts?

All Parks: Renewal of the lease would not create any rail or air traffic impacts, nor would it generate any substantial amount of additional waterborne traffic. **There would be no significant impacts.**

4.J. PUBLIC SERVICES

1. Need for new or altered governmental services in any of the following areas:

a. Fire protection?

Fire protection is provided by both SCCPRD park field staff and fire agencies. SCCPRD ranger and maintenance staff are trained and equipped to provide initial response to wildfires in their parks but fire departments are called immediately. Structural fires within the lease areas could occur at ranger field offices, residences, concession facilities or restrooms.

Emergency response in Santa Clara County operates under a system called Automatic Aid whereby the fire station closest to a fire is assigned the response regardless of fire district jurisdiction. A computer database automatically identifies the closest station for response.

The primary mandate of the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CDFFP) is protection of water resources and watershed. The mandate of the Central Fire Protection District includes wildland fires and structural and other constructed improvements. CDFFP Battalion Chief J. Ferreira stated that his staffing and equipment are adequate to handle routine fire response within his jurisdiction with the exception of the very rare but catastrophic fires that can occur in any seasonally dry environment. In the past decade, a 13,000-acre fire in the Lexington Reservoir watershed destroyed 35 homes in the communities south of the Reservoir. A major conflagration such as this would always require additional mutual aid support.

Water for fire fighting is usually taken directly from the reservoirs with pumps or a helicopter. Water trucks are also used to bring water to remote areas. In some cases fire hydrants are located near residential areas and would also be used to fight a wildland fire if appropriate.

Responsibility for fire protection at the lease areas is as follows:

Almaden Reservoir: Dual jurisdiction is between the Central Fire Protection District (CFPD) and the CDFFP. CFPD contracts with the San Jose Fire Department because San Jose has the closest fire station, located in New Almaden. The nearest CFPD station is on Shannon Road in Los Gatos and the nearest CDFFP station is the Almaden Station on McKean Road. City of San Jose Fire Station in New Almaden has the closest response time.

Anderson Reservoir: Dual jurisdiction between South County Fire District (SCFD) and the co-located Morgan Hill Fire Department/CDFFP station in Morgan Hill.

Calero Reservoir: The CFPD contracts with the San Jose Fire Department for fire protection services, although CDFFP's Almaden station on McKean Road is the closest station to the Reservoir and would be the first responding agency.

Chesbro Reservoir: Dual jurisdiction between the South Santa Clara County Fire Department (SCCFPD) and CDFFP. Responding stations would be the City of Morgan Hill Fire Department/CDFFP co-located station in Morgan Hill or CDFFP Almaden Station on McKean Road. The City of Morgan Hill Fire Department would be the third responding agency.

Coyote Percolation Pond: City of San Jose Fire Department.

Coyote Reservoir: Dual jurisdiction between SCCFPD and CDFFP. The first responding station would be the CDFFP Coyote Station on Gilroy Hot Springs Road during summer fire season (June through October); otherwise the responding station would be the SCCFPD on Maston Ave by Highway 101.

Guadalupe Reservoir: The Reservoir is in the jurisdiction of CDFFP. The closest CDFFP station is on McKean Road. The next closest CDFFP station is the Alma station south of Los Gatos on Highway 17. CDFFP would also request response from the CFPD station on Shannon Road.

Lexington Reservoir: Dual jurisdiction between CDFFP and CFPD. The closest station is the CDFFP Alma Station at the Park entrance. The CFPD station is in Redwood Estates on Madrone Drive.

Los Gatos Percolation Ponds: The City of Campbell contracts with CFPD for emergency response.

Stevens Creek Reservoir: Central Fire Protection District responding from the Monte Vista Station has primary responsibility for structural fires within the lease area. CDFFP maintains a station with a single engine at the south end of the Reservoir during summer fire season.

Uvas Reservoir: SCCFPD and CDFFP have dual jurisdiction. The SCCFD station is on Highway 152 at Burchell Road. The CDFFP station is in Morgan Hill.

Vasona Reservoir: The Town of Los Gatos contracts with the Central Fire District for fire protection services. There are two fire stations close to Vasona Lake County Park: one at the corner of Bentley and University and another at Wild Way and Winchester Boulevard.

b. Police protection?

SCCPRD rangers enforce Park and Recreation regulations within the lease areas. Rangers are limited-status peace officers who have citation authority but are not full peace officers and do not make arrests or bear arms. The SCCPRD contracts with the Santa Clara County Sheriffs Department for law enforcement services at 7 of the 12 lease areas during the 5-month period from April to

October. Ten deputies are assigned to provide police protection in 9 park units, with one deputy available to cover vacation relief.

Of the areas included in the lease agreement, police services are provided to Stevens Creek County Park, Lexington Reservoir County Park, Calero Reservoir County Park, Anderson Reservoir County Park, Uvas Reservoir County Park, Chesbro Reservoir County Park and Coyote Lake County Park. Current staffing allows for adequate park coverage (Sgt. Bill Gray, SCCSD).

c. School facilities?

Renewal of the lease agreement generates no students and would not affect provision of school facilities.

d. Parks/recreation facilities?

All Parks: Renewal of the lease agreement provides essential regional park and recreation facilities to the residents of Santa Clara County and urban park facilities to the residents of the City of Los Gatos, the City of San Jose and the City of Campbell.

Denial of the lease agreement would severely impact the provision of park and recreational facilities in Santa Clara County unless the SCVWD were to undertake the management of its lands for public recreation or contract with another agency or private corporation to provide recreational administration.

If the lease renewal is denied and no other agency or group assumes recreation management, 8 parks would be closed for any public recreation as the Park boundaries correspond to the lease area boundary. Recreational usage at 3 County Parks would be severely curtailed. One lease area currently provides no public recreation so no change would occur if closed to recreation.

Almaden Reservoir: Closed to all public recreation.

Anderson Reservoir: Closed to all public recreation. Anderson Reservoir County Park contains some lands outside of the lease area boundary but these lands are only accessible by boat, effectively closing the Park if boat launching facilities are closed.

Calero Reservoir: Recreational opportunities available due to the 12-mile trail network in the southern portion of the Park. Calero Ranch Stables would continue to operate. Equestrians would continue to use trail network.

Chesbro Reservoir: Closed to all public recreation.

Coyote Percolation Pond: There is no public recreation provided at Coyote Percolation Pond at the present. Special use permits could allow limited recreation after lease approval.

Coyote Reservoir: Closed to all public recreation.

Guadalupe Reservoir: Closed to all public recreation.

Lexington Reservoir: Closed to all public recreation.

Los Gatos Percolation Ponds: Closed to all public recreation. The SCCPRD controls a group picnic area at the northern end of the Park which is not included in the lease area. Public access to the group picnic area is through SCVWD lease lands so an easement for access would have to be arranged.

Stevens Creek Reservoir: Recreational opportunities available both north, east and south of the lease area in SCCPRD lands. Day use areas, park office/visitor center, archery range, Villa Maria Group Picnic Area and other Group picnic areas would still be available for use.

Uvas Reservoir: Closed to all public recreation.

Vasona Reservoir: Recreational activities at the most popular County parks would be severely curtailed. Park offices and the picnic areas and associated parking on the west side of the Reservoir are outside of the lease area and could be available for public use. Los Gatos Creek and all facilities south of Vasona Park Road are also outside of the lease area. Los Gatos Creek Trail would need to be relocated further to the east. Boat rental facilities would not be used.

e. **Maintenance of public facilities (streets, highways, public transit, etc.)?**

All Parks: Maintenance of roadways serving lease areas within the County jurisdiction is the responsibility of the Santa Clara County Transportation Agency. Maintenance of certain interior public roads exclusively serving a park is also the responsibility of SCCTA. Other interior roads are maintained by Park staff, SCCTA or by separate contract with private companies. Service roads to the SCVWD facilities are maintained by SCVWD.

Vasona Reservoir, Los Gatos Percolation Ponds and Coyote Percolation Pond are accessed from streets maintained by the Town of Los Gatos, the City of Campbell and the City of San Jose, respectively.

For nearly every lease area, the County road used by the public to access the County park also services other communities and uses and would require maintenance regardless if the lease renewal is approved. An exception is Coyote Reservoir Road which is maintained by the SCCTA but terminates in the park and would be used only by Park staff, visitors and SCVWD personnel.

No public transit lines are dedicated specifically to bringing visitors to the County Parks. No additional impact over regularly provided service is incurred through the continuation of the lease agreement. At the present several of the parks can be reached by public transit:

Almaden Reservoir: Closest public transportation is SCCTA #13 bus which stops 0.5 miles north of the dam at the Almaden Road/Betram intersection.

Anderson Reservoir: Closest public transportation is SCCTA bus #15 which stops at Holiday and Copper Hill in the Holiday Lakes Estates area and SCCTA bus #15A which stops at Cochrane and St. Louise, 0.75 feet south of the lower picnic area.

Calero Reservoir: No public transportation.

Chesbro Reservoir: No public transportation.

Coyote Percolation Pond: Closest public transportation is SCCTA bus #67 which stops at Bernal and Old Montgomery Road approximately 2000 feet from the Coyote Creek Trail at the north end of the park.

Coyote Reservoir: No public transportation.

Guadalupe Reservoir: No public transportation.

Lexington Reservoir: Closest public transportation is SCCTA bus #76 which stops at Lexington School Road and Old Santa Cruz Highway on the west side of the Reservoir approximately one mile south of the dam but only several hundred feet from the Reservoir shoreline.

Los Gatos Percolation Ponds: Closest public transportation is SCCTA bus #37 which stops at Camden/Blossom Hill and University or SCCTA bus #38 which stops at Lark and University.

Stevens Creek Reservoir: No public transportation.

Uvas Reservoir: No public transportation.

Vasona Reservoir: Closest public transportation is SCCTA bus #27 which stops at Blossom Hill and University or SCCTA bus #38 which stops at Lark and University.

The proposed project would not create new demand for maintenance of public facilities or impact provision of public transit.

f. Flood protection?

One of the primary mandates of the SCVWD, in addition to its charge as a domestic water supplier, is the provision of flood control within the District. Under SCVWD Ordinance 83-2, the SCCPRD is required to obtain a permit for all improvements and activities proposed for the lease areas or that would impact lease area lands, reservoirs or watercourses. As a matter of procedure, the SCCPRD planning staff routinely submits all improvement plans proposed for the Parks which contain lease areas for SCVWD review, except for replacements of existing signs or picnic tables (D. Pierce, SCCPRD). Recreation is a secondary priority at SCVWD lease areas and SCVWD oversight ensures that the provision of flood control is not adversely affected by the provision of public recreation.

g. **Other governmental services?**

No.

K. Utilities

1. Need for new systems or alterations to the following utilities systems:

a. **Electricity?** No.
b. **Natural gas?** No.
c. **Communications systems?** No.
d. **Water treatment or distribution?** Satisfactory except current provision for the Calero Ranch Stables. Bottled drinking water is being used pending the connection of the stable area to the newly installed water tank. Water connection has been made to the SCCPRD staff office.
e. **Sewer or septic tanks?** No. Leach fields previously sited in low elevation at Calero Ranch Stables and Coyote Reservoir have been relocated to higher ground.
f. **Storm water drainage?** No. The implementation of the DHS-approved Cattle Management Plan at Calero Ranch Stables would redirect runoff from the pastures and stables.
g. **Solid waste disposal?** No.

4.L. ENERGY

1. Use of substantial amounts of fuel or energy?

Responses to questions 1 and 2 are combined below.

2. Substantial increased demand upon existing sources of energy or require the development of new energy sources?

All Parks: Recreational activities on lease lands do not require a large amount of fuel or energy. Existing fuel consumption associated with park use includes that used by motorboats and vehicles. Visitor levels are not expected to substantially increase as a result of lease renewal. Therefore, no additional demand for energy usage would be created. Additionally, lease renewal would not require the development of any new energy sources. **There would be no significant impacts.**

3. Removal of vegetation capable of providing summer shade to a building?

Responses to questions 3 and 4 are combined below.

4. Obstruction of solar access to adjacent properties?

All Parks: Renewal of the lease would not require the removal of vegetation surrounding buildings, nor would it require the construction of any building that may obstruct any solar access to adjacent properties. **There would be no significant impacts.**

5. Conflict with adopted energy conservation plans?

All Parks: Energy conservation plans are not relevant to continuation of the lease. **There would be no significant impacts.**

4.M. PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY

1. Creation of any known or potential human health or safety hazard?
And
2. Exposure of people to existing health hazards?

All Parks: As previously discussed in Item B.6., swimming is not allowed at the four terminal reservoirs (Almaden, Anderson, Calero and Coyote) under the conditions of the California Department of Health Services (DHS) permit that allow the SCVWD to act as a domestic water supplier. Swimming at the remaining 8 lease areas is banned by SCCPRD due to a lack of life guard personnel. According to park rangers, the restriction of this activity requires constant monitoring by park staff during the peak season. This creates the potential for both the possibility of injury from lack of lifeguard supervision and continued violation of the DHS water quality orders.

To reduce incidences of illegal swimming the *mitigation measure* ~~good practice measure (~~ listed previously in Item B.6, is also recommended. ~~to reduce the incidence of unsupervised swimming.~~ The *mitigation measure* ~~good practice measure~~ recommend*s*~~ed~~ that the SCCPRD, in cooperation with SCVWD, ~~should~~ implement an improved *and aggressive* swimming prohibition sign program using signs conveying both the "NO SWIMMING" message and succinct *multilingual* language *and* ~~or~~ symbolism demonstrating the rationale for this restriction at the reservoirs. NO SWIMMING signs *shall* ~~should~~ be placed in all likely areas where visitors access the lakeshore (e.g., volunteer trails, roadside pulloffs).

Motor boating, waterskiing and jet skiing are allowed at three of the lease areas: Anderson Reservoir, Calero Reservoir and Coyote Reservoir. Boat operators and passengers must follow all regulations of the State Department of Boating and Waterways. Staff also enforce SCCPRD regulations regarding maximum speed limits, direction of travel, "no wake" areas, no entry areas, hours of operations, and jet ski or motor boat only areas. SCCPRD ranger staff use patrol boats at Anderson, Calero, Chesbro, Coyote, Lexington, Stevens Creek and Uvas.

Almaden Reservoir: Two public safety issues have been identified for Almaden Reservoir:

Lack of Spillway Fencing. Park visitors are allowed access to the Reservoir dam and the southern shore of the reservoir. The southern end of the dam crest above the spillway is fenced with high chain link fence. However, the upstream dam abutment is not fenced along the spillway channel wall. At the point where the left spillway wall meets the crest, the dropoff to the concrete spillway below is approximately 40 feet.

There is no fencing in place along the slope of the upstream face where it meets the top of the spillway wall creating a hazard potential for someone to accidentally fall down to the spillway. The hazard potential is particularly acute for young children who may stray a short distance away from parents and for visitors illegally entering the area after dark. The area cannot be secured after sunset when the park is officially closed and the potential exists for nighttime accidents to occur.

when the park is officially closed and the potential exists for nighttime accidents to occur.

The SCVWD, at the advice of the Division of Safety of Dams (DSOD), will install continuous fencing along the dam crest. SCVWD will also paint stripes along the slope of the upstream face where it meets the spillway wall and install a sign at the dam crest to warn the public of the dropoff.

The following mitigation is recommended to reduce the public safety hazard at Almaden Reservoir to insignificant:

IMPACT: *Public Health & Safety*-Lack of continuous fencing around the dam spillway creates a hazardous condition for the public. *Potentially significant.*

Mitigation: As a condition of lease renewal, SCVWD shall install a sign warning the public of the hazard and seek DSOD approval to install continuous chain-link fencing along the dam crest.

Fish Contamination Warning Signs. Inadequate signing warning against fish consumption at Almaden Reservoir is a potential public health hazard.

Mercury-contaminated sediments in stormwater runoff originating in Almaden Quicksilver County Park and other portions of the Almaden Reservoir watershed have been deposited in the Reservoir (Camp Dresser & McKee Inc. 1992). Though cinnabar is heavier than water and very insoluble, it can be bacterially oxidized to form other mercury compounds, such as methyl mercury, which is readily absorbed by aquatic plants and fish and through human consumption of the fish (Camp Dresser & McKee 1992; SCCPRD 1992). Testing in the 1970's confirmed the presence of mercury at Almaden Reservoir in the water column, sediments and fish tissue (EOA Inc. 1989). While not a carcinogen, mercury causes a variety of adverse health effects in humans including neurological, renal and developmental toxicities (Camp Dresser & McKee 1992).

Under the direction of the California Department of Toxic Substances Control acting as lead agency, the SCCPRD is developing a plan to clean up Almaden Quicksilver County Park. Studies have been conducted to assess the degree of public health hazard present at the park. One of the priorities of the eventual cleanup effort would be to control "off-site transport of mercury via sediments" (Camp Dresser & McKee 1992) in order to "reduce the amount of site-generated mercury entering local aquatic systems and influencing fish tissue concentrations."

The 1992 Risk Assessment for Almaden Quicksilver County Park (Camp Dresser & McKee) stated that mine waste piles had been evaluated to determine which piles were the main contributors of mercury-laden sediments to stream drainages. Sediment control facilities are proposed for these piles to reduce off-site impacts from contaminated sediments. However, "elevated levels of mercury in living organisms in mercury contaminated areas may persist for as long as 100 years after the source of pollution has been discontinued" (Camp Dresser & McKee 1992 citing Eisler 1987). Enhancement of institutional controls, such as the signing program, were also recommended in order to prevent fish consumption.

No swimming, boating or any form of water contact recreation besides fishing is allowed at Almaden Reservoir. Though fishing is allowed at Almaden Reservoir, in response to the potential public health hazard, the SCVWD has posted multi-lingual signs warning against consumption of fish from Almaden Reservoir. "No Boating" signs should also be posted to inform the public of this prohibition.

The potential hazard exists as only two signs are posted along the length of the Reservoir. No sign can easily be seen from the parking pulloff most regularly used by visitors accessing the dam and reservoir shoreline. The sign near this parking area is installed too far from the parking pulloff and too close to Alamitos Road to be easily noticed by the public walking between the parking pulloff and the Reservoir. The sign has also faded so that two of the messages are illegible.

The SCCPRD should place warning signs in all areas regularly accessed by the public. This would include all parking pullouts and both shorelines adjacent to the dam. Increased signing would reduce the potential health hazard to insignificance by making the signing program more efficient in reaching the target audience. The following mitigation is recommended:

IMPACT: *Public Health & Safety*-Possible adverse impact on human health and safety resulting from a limited number of and the poor condition of existing warning signs along the perimeter of the reservoir regarding mercury contamination of fish. *Potentially significant.*

Park(s): ALMADEN, GUADALUPE

Mitigation: As a condition of lease renewal, SCCPRD shall implement an improved signage program at Almaden and Guadalupe reservoirs. Existing warning signage shall be replaced, and additional multilingual warning signs shall be positioned at conspicuous volunteer trail cutting locations.

Effect: This impact would be reduced to a less than significant level.

Anderson Reservoir: No specific public health and safety impacts were identified.

Calero Reservoir: There is adequate signing warning against fish consumption at Calero Reservoir. No other specific public health and safety impacts were identified.

Chesbro Reservoir: No specific public health and safety impacts were identified.

Coyote Percolation Pond: No public recreation is permitted.

Coyote Reservoir: No specific public health and safety impacts were identified.

Guadalupe Reservoir: The same Mitigation Measure described for Almaden Reservoir in reference to signs warning against the consumption of fish is also recommended for Guadalupe Reservoir. There is no sign at the Guadalupe Reservoir dam to warn visitors against fish consumption. Signs posted were at one pulloff and adjacent to a no trespassing area. Signs should be posted at each regularly used road pulloff. No boating signs should also be posted to inform the public of regulations.

Lexington Reservoir: No specific public health and safety impacts were identified.

Los Gatos Percolation Ponds: No specific public health and safety impacts were identified.

Stevens Creek Reservoir: There are no significant impacts related to public safety identified for this lease area. The shorelines south of the dam on either side of the reservoir are heavily used by fishing visitors. A site visit found the eastern shore littered by food containers, plastic line, hooks, broken glass, and other fishing-related litter. The following good practice measure is recommended to help reduce the accumulation of dangerous litter to both humans and wildlife:

Good Practice: SCCPRD should install trash cans closer to the activity and schedule regular pickup of trash. Encourage staff to make informational contacts to fishing visitors regarding hazards from fishing litter and glass. Interest a youth or fishing organization in adopting the area for cleanup.

Uvas Reservoir: No specific public health and safety impacts were identified.

Vasona Reservoir: No specific significant public health and safety impacts were identified for Vasona Reservoir. However, the concentration of waterfowl in and around the reservoir, and the large number of young children brought to the Park, raises the possibility that children could contract salmonella poisoning from contact with duck feces. As there have been no previous recorded cases stemming from children's contact with ducks at the Park, the hazard potential must be considered low. The SCCPRD is beginning a program to reduce the number of waterfowl present at Vasona Lake County Park which should also reduce the health hazards posed to humans. Mitigation recommended for hazards posed to native waterfowl populations by the resident duck population would also further reduce any hazard to humans (see response to Item 4.D. Animal Life, Item 1, Vasona).

Mitigation measures described in this section would reduce the known or potential human health or safety hazard to insignificance.

3. Application, use, disposal, or risk of explosion or the release of toxic or hazardous materials?

The continuation of the lease agreement extending recreational uses in the lease areas for an additional 15 years does not involve the disposal or risk of explosion or release of toxic or hazardous materials. The SCCPRD does apply and use pesticides, though use of these substances is kept to a minimum. Two senior park staff are State-licensed Pest Control Advisors. Other field staff are State-licensed applicators. Senior staff directs the application by field staff and approves all plans for application. SCCPRD staff apply pesticides for control of ground squirrels, gophers, poison oak and other noxious weeds, exotic plants and yellowjacket nests. These application procedures comply with State Department of Pesticide Regulation and County Department of Agriculture regulations. The SCCPRD has also begun formulating Resource Management Plans for several park units to combat invasive plant species by applying integrated pest management techniques. Integrated Pest Management seeks to limit the amount of pesticides applied by combining the application with other natural and physical controls.

The application and use of pesticides in the lease area is in compliance with current State and County regulations and is not considered a significant impact.

4. Possible interference with an emergency response plan or an emergency evacuation plan?

The continuation of the lease agreement would not interfere with existing emergency response or evacuation plans. The SCCPRD has drafted an emergency response plan entitled the Continuity of Government Plan. This Plan seeks to coordinate SCCPRD emergency response with the County plan. The SCCPRD Continuity of Government Plan addresses the deployment of SCCPRD staff, radio communications and location of command centers. In addition, each park unit has an individual evacuation plan for use in the event of fire, earthquake or other emergency. County-wide efforts are enhanced by the presence of SCCPRD staff and equipment at the individual units as they are then available to respond to emergencies in isolated portions of the County.

No significant impact to existing emergency response plans would result from project approval.

5. Increased fire hazard in areas with flammable brush, grass or trees?

All Parks: Permitting public outdoor recreation increases fire hazard by encouraging recreation in settings with native vegetation.

The SCCPRD provides grills for cooking at eight of the twelve lease areas and the public may bring barbecue grills into the eleven lease areas available for picnicking. The permitted use of fire creates the potential for accidental wildfire. Wildfires can result from illegal parking near flammable vegetation, using fireworks, starting out-of-bounds campfires, poor tending of campfires or grills, or incorrect disposal of charcoals from grills. These hazards are common risks associated with permitted outdoor recreation.

Incidences of wildfires within the lease area are not common. The most notable exception is the 1985 fire started on the east side of Lexington Reservoir in the vicinity of Soda Springs Road which eventually destroyed 35 homes in the community south of the Reservoir. This fire was thought to have been started through the use of illegal fireworks (J. Ferreira, Dept. of Forestry and Fire Protection).

SCCPRD patrol vehicles are equipped with firefighting equipment and SCCPRD ranger and maintenance staff are trained to provide initial response to wildfires in all parks. Staff are directed to call for fire department aid immediately upon report of a fire. California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CDFFP) Battalion Chief J. Ferreira stated that his staffing and equipment are adequate to handle routine fire response within his jurisdiction with the exception of the very rare but catastrophic fires that can occur in any seasonally dry environment (see Section 4.J.1.a for a more detailed discussion of adequacy of fire services).

When conditions include low humidity, high temperatures and sustained winds of over 20 to 25 miles per hour, the State Forester (the Director of the CDFFP) may issue a red flag warning. On these days, no open flames or smoking are allowed in the County parks. Parks are closed to the public on high fire danger days as specified by the Director of the CDFFP or the Director of the SCCPRD (A. LaFleur, SCCPRD).

In addition to SCCPRD staff and the fire departments serving the lease areas, a program operated by the CDFFP office in Morgan Hill, Volunteers in Fire Protection, provides trained volunteers to patrol high fire danger areas, including County reservoir parks, on the weekends of Memorial Day, Fourth of July and Labor Day. Areas patrolled include Almaden, Calero, Coyote, Chesbro, Stevens Creek and Uvas. During July 4th weekend, 1994, volunteers alerted the CDFFP Volunteer command center of two illegal bonfires at Chesbro Reservoir (C. Morgan, CDFFP).

Incidences of wildfire in the lease areas have not been associated with legal recreational uses. Impacts upon fire hazard are not considered significant.

Wildfires started from illegal activities such as fireworks, or illegal bonfires, would not necessarily be reduced by closing the areas to public recreation. These types of activities could occur in the lease areas whether or not these areas are open for public recreation because they typically occur after parks close. In addition, most lease areas are readily accessible by public roads (i.e., Stevens Creek Reservoir, Lexington Reservoir, Anderson Reservoir). Fire hazard would not be reduced by eliminating public access to the lease areas as the number of motorists using these public roads is far greater than the number of park visitors actually entering the lease areas. Eliminating public recreation would also reduce routine patrols of the more remote lease areas during the fire season when hazard potential for wildfire is highest.

The approval of the project does not significant increase fire hazard in the lease areas.

4.N. AIR QUALITY

1. Violate any air quality standard or contribute to an existing or projected air quality violation?

All Parks: The 12 lease sites are located in the San Francisco Bay Area Air Basin. This area is characterized by a variety of terrain features consisting of mountain ranges, inland valleys and bays. All of these features have an influence upon meteorology and air quality conditions in the region. The Basin, including the project area, has been classified as nonattainment for state and federal ozone standards. The urban area of San Jose is nonattainment for carbon monoxide, but rural areas are in attainment of both standards. The area is unclassified for federal PM10 and nonattainment for state PM10 standards. The project area falls under the air quality planning jurisdiction of the Bay Area Air Quality Management District (BAAQMD). The BAAQMD reviews projects and plans and comments accordingly. Projects with the magnitude of the proposed lease renewal would not require a review by the District as it would not generate significant emissions (Joe Steinberger, BAAQMD).

In the Basin, northwesterly winds enter through the Golden Gate and predominate during the year. These northwest winds channel down to the southeast creating the northwesterly flow experienced in the South Bay and project area. Day and evening temperatures average 60 degrees annually, and precipitation occurs from November to April. These temperature and wind characteristics have an influence upon inversions (layers of warm air above layers of cool air) in the South Bay. Inversions limit the ability of vertical mixing of air; this phenomena serves to trap pollutants generated in the area. Due to a combination of meteorology, topography, emission source density, and the complex atmospheric potential in the area, the Santa Clara Valley experiences the highest concentrations of carbon monoxide and ozone in the Basin (BAAQMD, 1985).

Emissions associated with the existing lease sites include those from vehicles, and motorized boats and jet skis. Recreation has continued at these sites for years, and overall, emission levels associated with these activities are considered minimal on both regional and local levels.

Anderson, Calero, and Coyote Reservoirs: The most notable mobile source emissions occur during heavy use periods (e.g., weekends, holidays) when there is idling at park entrance kiosks due to large numbers of boaters attempting to access the reservoir. This idling has the potential to create increased concentrations of carbon monoxide which could degrade local air quality conditions. Anderson and Calero parks have recently initiated boat launch reservation systems which reduce the number of idling vehicles at any one time at park entrances.

There is no reservation system at Coyote Reservoir, but impacts associated with existing operations and lease renewal are not expected to be substantial. Worst-case carbon monoxide concentrations occur during cold start modes (initial start-up after a car has not been running). Because idling vehicles at the park are in a warm start mode, and because the number of vehicles idling is not considerable , carbon monoxide concentrations would not be expected to exceed any state or federal standards. In an effort to support BAAQMD efforts to improve air quality conditions in the Basin, the following good practice measure is recommended.

Good Practice: **SCCPRD should implement a boat launch reservation system at Coyote Reservoir similar to that at Anderson and Calero reservoirs or signs should be posted at idling locations requesting that engines be turned off during waiting periods exceeding 5 minutes.**

While the project area is nonattainment for ozone and PM10 standards, air emissions associated with any aspect of the project are considered minimal; they would not exceed any threshold established by the BAAQMD. **There would be no significant impacts.**

2. Expose sensitive receptors to pollutants?

All Parks: Sensitive receptor populations are those which could experience adverse health effects from exposure to air pollutants. This segment of the population is typically composed of children, the elderly, and the acutely and chronically ill (BAAQMD, 1985). Renewal of the lease would not cause or contribute to air quality exceedances in the area, nor would it locate sensitive receptors proximate to harmful levels of pollutants. **There would be no significant impacts.**

3. Creation of objectionable odors?

All Parks: Activities associated with renewal of the lease would not create any objectionable odors. **There would be no significant impacts.**

4. Major alteration of air movement, moisture, or temperature, or any change in climate, either locally or regionally?

All Parks: Recreational activities associated with park use do not alter local and regional meteorological conditions. **There would be no significant impacts associated with renewal of the lease.**

4.0. NOISE

1. Increase in existing noise levels during construction or operations to the extent that it would create an annoyance to existing or future residents in the project vicinity?
AND
2. Exposure of people to unusually high noise levels?

The project would allow the extension of public recreational activities in the SCVWD lease areas for an additional 15 years. There is no construction associated with the proposed project. Noise impact assessment, therefore, focuses on the noise environment produced by the current level of recreation and its affect on the lease area vicinity, and, conversely, the ambient or background noise level that people are subject to when they come to one of the lease areas. The California Environmental Quality Act defines a significant noise effect as one which would "increase substantially the ambient noise levels for adjoining areas." The assessment will identify if permitted recreational activities have the potential to contribute significantly to the background noise environment within and adjacent to the lease areas.

Frequently Used Terminology

Noise is measured on the logarithmic decibel scale (dB), usually with a frequency sensitivity that matches the human ear, called A-weighting. Thus most environmental measurements are reported in "dBA", meaning decibels on the A-scale.

Variable noise is described by values such as L10, L50 and L90 -- levels that are exceeded 10 percent, 50 percent and 90 percent of the time, respectively. The equivalent noise level, Leq, represents the level of a steady noise having the same sound energy as the time-varying noise measured.

Noise exposure over a day is described by either the CNEL or Ldn 24-hour noise levels. The 24-hour day is divided into a 12-hour daytime period, a 3-hour evening period and a 9-hour nighttime period. Both measures add 10 dB to noise levels during the nighttime hours (10:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m.) to account for the increased annoyance of nighttime noise. The CNEL also adds a 5 dB weighting during the evening hours (7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.). In practice, CNEL and Ldn levels rarely vary by more than 1 dB and are considered to be functionally equivalent.

Applicable Standards

Noise generation within the lease area falls under the jurisdiction of the surrounding community. Nine lease areas are within unincorporated Santa Clara County, Vasona Lake County Park is in Los Gatos, Los Gatos Creek County Park is in Campbell and the Coyote Percolation Ponds are within the City of San Jose.

California Harbors and Navigation Code. In addition to jurisdiction noise ordinances, motorboats must comply with the Harbors and Navigation Code, Sections 654 and 668, which place limits on the amount of noise that are generated by motorboats. Limits are based on the age of the motorboat as follows:

Engine Manufacture Date	**Maximum Noise Level at 50 feet (dBA)**
1974-1976	86 dBA
1976-1978	84 dBA
1978-present	82 dBA

Santa Clara County. The Santa Clara County Ordinance for the Control of Noise and Vibration (Health and Sanitation Code, Section B11-190) would apply to the nine reservoirs which are in unincorporated areas. The County Noise Ordinance sets noise level standards for exterior and interior noise based on land use type. The levels set by the Noise Ordinance are not based on a 24-hour noise level equivalency, such as Ldn, but are based on noise as generated on an hourly basis.

The Noise Ordinance states that residential areas with~~in~~ single-family dwellings or duplexes should not have exterior noise levels exceeding 55 dBA from 7 am to 10 pm or interior noise levels exceeding 45 dBA from 10 pm to 7 am. These levels should not be exceeded more than 30 minutes in any hour of the stated time periods.

The County Noise Ordinance does not define a noise standard for parks and open space land uses. Section B11-195 (4), Motor Vehicle Noise Limits, Motorized Recreational Vehicles Operating Off Public Right-of-Way states:

> "No person shall operate or cause to be operated any motorized recreation vehicle off a public right-of-way in such a manner that the sound levels emitted therefrom violate the provision of section B11-192 [defined above]. This section shall apply to all motorized recreational vehicles, whether or not duly licensed and registered, including but not limited to commercial or noncommercial racing vehicles, motorcycles, go-carts, amphibious craft, campers, dune buggies and *motorboats*." [italics added]

The County General Plan sets Standards for Land Use Compatibility that are based on the Ldn noise level of an area to determine if a proposed new use is compatible with existing uses. A satisfactory noise level for both residential and park areas is an Ldn of 55 dBA. As subject of this initial study is the continuation of existing uses, the Noise Ordinance rather than the Noise Element of the General Plan is the more appropriate standard.

Los Gatos. The Town Noise Ordinance is based on exceedences of ambient (or background) noise levels mapped throughout the Town. The Town noise standard would be exceeded when a weekday noise level measures 6 dBA above the ambient level for that section of the Town. In order to more accurately assess noise impacts, the day is divided into three time periods, each having a different noise characteristic and sensitivity. The noise levels for the different sections of the Town are presented on a map. The ambient noise levels and the level of exceedence for the section of Los Gatos that contains Vasona Park is presented below.

Time of Day	Ambient Noise Level	Ambient + 6 dBA
6 am - 1 pm	45 dBA	51 dBA
1 pm - 10 pm	45 dBA	51 dBA
10 pm - 6 am	42 dBA	48 dBA

Campbell. The City of Campbell does not have a noise ordinance that applies to ambient noise levels. The 1975 Noise Element of the Campbell General Plan sets, as a goal, the following noise standards for park areas: outdoor L10 not to exceed 50 dBA or 50 dBA for no more than 2.4 hours in a 24-hour period (C. Bentz, City of Campbell).

City of San Jose. Coyote Percolation Ponds are within the jurisdiction of the City of San Jose. Noise standards for the City of San Jose are described in the Noise Element of the Horizon 2000 General Plan. The noise standards set for parks is the same as for residential areas. The standards are listed below:

SAN JOSE LAND USE COMPATIBILITY GUIDELINES FOR COMMUNITY NOISE

Ldn[1] Value in Decibels	Compatibility Levels
60 or less	Satisfactory
between 60 and 70	Outdoor activity should be limited to acoustically protected areas.
between 70 and 76	New development permitted only if uses are entirely indoors and building design limits interior noise levels to 45 dBA or less. Noise levels of 76 dBA or greater are considered hazardous to health by the EPA.

Source: Horizon 2000 General Plan, City of San Jose. November 7, 1984.

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[1] L_{dn} (sound level, day, night). This is a 24 hour average of noise levels with the a 10 dB penalty added to the average measured from 10 pm to 7 am. This weighting gives emphasis to nighttime noises which have a higher annoyance factor.

Almaden Reservoir: Almaden Road is located on Alamitos Road, a two lane road which primarily serves a rural residential neighborhood and recreational drivers. Alamitos Road traffic and occasional airplane or jet overflights would be the primary noise sources for the Reservoir with the exception of natural noise sources such as birds, wind or rushing water.

There are two residences opposite the lease area. Recreational activity at the Reservoir is restricted to fishing and picnicking and no recreational facilities are provided. Visitation is very low. Neither the residents opposite the lease area nor visitors to the Reservoir would be exposed to unusually high noise levels due to normal operation of the Reservoir for public recreation.

No significant impact to ambient noise levels would result from project approval.

Anderson Reservoir: Noise at Anderson Reservoir is generated primarily by motorboats using the Reservoir. Motorboat use is permitted at the Reservoir and a fee is charged for each boat launching. Boats can only be launched from the one boat ramp south of the dam and operated by the SCCPRD. A second County-owned boat ramp at the Holiday Lake Estates is closed.

As the SCCPRD controls the sole access for boats to the Reservoir, the SCCPRD can effectively limit the number of boats at one time. SCCPRD sets the boat limit based on the current surface area of the Reservoir using a formula of 1 boat per 6 acres of Reservoir surface area. If the Reservoir water level was at the maximum level the surface area would be 1,244 acres, allowing approximately 207 boats on the Reservoir. Often the Reservoir is far below maximum levels. In June 1994, the boat limit was set at 114 boats based on the present Reservoir levels.

A noise study of Anderson Reservoir was prepared by Charles M. Salter Associates in March 1989. Noise modeling of motorboat noise projected an average annual Ldn of 63 dBA along the shoreline. The modeled noise level was based on a maximum of 211 boats on the Reservoir operating from 8:00 to sunset. The Ldn noise level includes daytime and nighttime noise and the resultant number is an expression of a 24-hour noise level. The County Noise Ordinance is based on noises exceeding an hourly noise level. The Charles M. Salter study derived an annual average Ldn of 63 dBA. This was based on a higher number of boats on the lake at one time than is currently permitted.

Salter also measured four Leq levels but does not indicate if motorboats were included in the noise environment. These four Leq values were measured at different locations around the Lake for periods ranging from 15 to 35 minutes. None of the Leq readings exceeded the County Noise Ordinance standards. The Leqs resulting from monitoring were: 52 dBA at the boat launch area; 49 dBA at the Live Oak picnic area; 48 dBA at the Toyon Group Area; and 45 dBA at Woodchoppers Flat day use area.

The Leq measurements by Salter indicate compliance with the County Noise Ordinance but it is not clear whether boat noise was a component contributor.

SCCPRD has reduced the number of permitted boats since the noise study was completed.

Park staff, Morgan Hill Police and the County Sheriff indicate that residents of the Holiday Lakes Estates area have complained in the past about boat noise only during the early morning hours. Most complaints are reports of individual boats on the Reservoir that appear to be in violation of the noise limits set by the California Harbors and Navigation Code.

In response to these complaints, Anderson rangers have obtained noise monitoring equipment and have been measuring the sound generated by boats in the Reservoir. The ranger staff has been doing this routinely and in response to individual complaints that come into their radio dispatcher. The loudest boats and the boats that generate the most complaints are over-the-transom speed boats. There have not been any complaints made to ranger staff requesting an end to motorboating at Anderson, only requested inspection of specifically loud boats.

The type of complaints and the nature of the response is in keeping with the intent of the Santa Clara County Noise Ordinance. However, if complaints continue noise monitoring at residences may be required to determine if the a violation of the County Noise Ordinance is occurring. The SCCPRD has several options to respond to citizen concerns.

1) Limiting the number of motor boats on the lake at one time by increasing the surface area per boat formula or decreasing the percentage of motor boats out of the total boats on the lake.

2) If complaints continue and are directed to early morning operation, set back the boat launching time to later in the morning.

3) Limiting the type of boat engine.

Noise impacts are not considered significant due to reduced number of boats on the lake and lack of recent complaints.

Calero Reservoir: Noise monitoring conducted in August 1991 for the Draft EIR on the Draft Park Master Plan. A 24-hour noise measurement in the picnic area west of the boat launch found that, within the Park, hourly noise levels exceeded the 55 dBA standard set forth in the Noise Ordinance. The Noise Ordinance seeks to prevent noise impacts from affecting adjacent land uses and does not specifically limit noise levels produced within a property.

Noise levels at Calero will be dependent on the surface area of the Reservoir which determines the number of boats allowed on the lake at one time. In June, 1994, reservoir water levels were so low that only 30 boats were allowed on the Reservoir at one time. At the time of the noise study, the limit was set at 40 jet skis and 42 boats. Measurements were taken at 40 feet from the Reservoir edge.

The highest Leq recorded was 66.1 dBA from 5:00 pm to 6:00 pm. The precise noise environment during that hour is not described (i.e., proximity of picnickers, number and type of boats). The measurement was taken 40 feet from the reservoir but distance to the noise source is not stated. Noise level attenuates 6 dB for each distance from the source doubled. If the noise measurement was taken at 400 feet from boats generating significant noise levels, then at a doubled distance of 800 feet, noise levels would attenuate to 60 dBA and at 1600 feet, noise levels would drop to 54 dBA. It is doubtful that significant noise levels reach the residences along McKean Road.

According to SCCPRD staff and the County Sheriff, the residents along McKean road in the vicinity of Calero Reservoir do not complain about motorboat noise generated in the Park. There are two residences north of McKean Road which are 1000 feet and 1,500 feet from the Reservoir edge. Boating normally begins at 8:00 am throughout the year. The noise ordinance states that a violation occurs when noise levels at an adjacent property are raised above 55 dBA for 30 minutes of a one hour period. Unless noise complaints by the Park visitors within the Park or neighbors of the park are received, the noise impacts generated by the motorboats would not be considered significant as the impacts are restricted to Park property.

No significant impact to ambient noise levels would result from project approval.

Chesbro Reservoir: Noise levels are low, typical of a rural area in Santa Clara County. Recreational activities at Chesbro Reservoir include non-power boating and fishing. The Reservoir is on Oak Glen Road, a two-lane road which serves a rural recreational community and recreational drivers. Through traffic would use a multi-lane freeway such as Highway 101. The area was not considered as a noise impact area, i.e., having an Ldn greater than 55 dBA, for the noise study recently undertaken for the County General Plan update (Pack 1994).

Noise sources at Chesbro Reservoir would be traffic on Oak Glen Road, occasional aircraft overflys and natural noise sources such as birds and wind. No recreational activity permitted at the Reservoir, such as fishing or non-power boating would generate noise levels significant enough to substantially increase the ambient noise level. Both visitors to the Reservoir and residents on the north and south sides of the Reservoir would experience a typical rural noise environment.

No significant impact to ambient noise levels would result from project approval.

Coyote Percolation Pond: Noise modeling for the Santa Clara County General Plan Update produced noise contours along Highway 101 for the area just south of Metcalf Road (Edward L. Pack Associates 1994). The Coyote Percolation Pond is on the north side of Metcalf Road, an equivalent noise environment. The Coyote Percolation Pond is approximately 500 feet west of Highway 101 at its closest point. The County Noise Study mapped this distance as within the 65 Ldn contour. The western side of the Coyote Percolation Pond is within the 60 to 65 dBA Ldn contour.

As no recreational activity takes place at the Coyote Percolation Pond, no significant impacts result from the noise environment.

Coyote Reservoir: Coyote Reservoir is one of three County Parks which permit the use of motorboats and jet skis. These motorized activities can produce significant noise levels if they approach the noise limits set by the California Harbors and Navigation Code. It can assumed that noise levels in areas of the Park exceed 55 dBA, however, exceedence of this level is not a violation of the County Noise Ordinance. According to the County Noise Ordinance, a violation occurs when noise generation on one property causes noise levels on adjacent properties to be greater than 55 dBA for 30 minutes out of a 60 minute period. There are no adjacent sensitive receptors to Coyote Lake County Park, which is in an isolated valley surrounded by undeveloped lands. Visitors to the Park expect the presence of motorboats and jet skis during day time hours.

Currently, due to low water levels, the maximum allowable number of boats has been set by SCCPRD staff at 74 boats at one time. This figure includes both gas-powered, electric and non-motorized boats. The purpose of the limitation is for public safety, but also to limit noise generation.

No significant impact to ambient noise levels would result from project approval.

Guadalupe Reservoir: Guadalupe Reservoir is located on Hicks Road, a two lane road which primarily serves a rural residential neighborhood and recreational drivers. Hicks Road and occasional airplane overflights would be the primary noise sources with the exception of bird noise, wind noise and noise generated at times when water flows over the spillway.

Baseline noise modeling conducted for the Guadalupe Landfill Project, adjacent to Almaden Quicksilver County Park, resulted in an Leq of 50.9 dBA for a residence located on Hicks Road, two miles east of Guadalupe Reservoir. On site noise level monitoring one mile west of the Reservoir on Hicks Road, adjacent to the southwestern corner of Almaden Quicksilver County Park, produced an Leq over 46.4 dBA. The noise level was recorded at a distance of 100 feet from Hicks Road and partially screened from road noise by intervening dense riparian vegetation in Guadalupe Creek. Noise levels at Guadalupe Reservoir adjacent to Hicks Road would be expected to fall within the range of these two levels (46.4 dBA to 50.9 dBA).

There is one residence opposite the lease area. Recreational activity at the Reservoir is restricted to fishing and picnicking and no recreational facilities are provided. Visitation is very low. Neither the residents opposite the lease area nor visitors to the Reservoir would be exposed to unusually high noise levels due to normal operation of the Reservoir for public recreation.

No significant impact to ambient noise levels would result from project approval.

Lexington Reservoir: A noise study completed for the Santa Clara County General Plan Update developed noise contour impacts for lands adjacent to major highways in the County. The northwest corner of Lexington Reservoir was mapped within the Ldn contour of 55 to 60 dBA. The contour angles across the Reservoir from the vicinity of Lexington School in a northeasterly direction to include the majority of Lexington Dam (Edward L. Pack and Associates 1994). The remainder of the Lake, including the boat launch area, picnic area and all of the residential areas are outside of the 55 dBA Ldn contour and therefore have an ambient noise level of less than 55 dBA.

In the past, residents of the greater surrounding rural residential community to Lexington Reservoir, including residents west of Highway 17, complained about noise impacts from motorboats on the Reservoir. In response, the SCCPRD adopted a regulation that bans the use of motorized boats (other than electric trolling motors) from use at Lexington Reservoir.

More recent complaints have involved noise generated by the voices of members of the various high school rowing clubs using the Reservoir in the early morning. The issue was resolved through community meetings in 1993 and complaints have ceased (J. Mohring, SCCPRD).

Approval of the lease agreement would not result in an adverse impact to the noise environment at Lexington Reservoir. Visitors to the north end of the Reservoir are exposed to high noise levels from traffic on Highway 17 but noise levels are typical of those experienced by all adjacent land uses to the Highway.

No significant impact to ambient noise levels would result from project approval.

Los Gatos Percolation Ponds: The Los Gatos Percolation Ponds are within Los Gatos Creek County Park which is in the City of Campbell. Recreational activities at the Park include fishing, a pond reserved for model boats, picnicking and through traffic by runners, walkers, skaters and bicyclists on the heavily-used Los Gatos Creek Trail. There are no activities which would generate significant noise levels. Noise levels at the Park are impacted by its adjacency to Highway 17, a major State transportation corridor.

A noise study conducted for the Santa Clara County General Plan update developed noise level corridors for lands adjacent to major highways in the County. Traffic on Highway 17 which passes by the southern end of Lexington Reservoir produces an Ldn of greater than 65 dBA within a corridor of approximately 185 feet on either side of the freeway. Day/night noise levels are between 60 and 65 dBA from approximately 185 to 435 feet from the freeway. These measurements are mapped for an area around Lexington Reservoir which is screened from Highway 17 by trees, that also act to reduce noise levels.

The Los Gatos Creek Trail is approximately 400 feet from Highway 17. Taking noise level information from the Lexington area, Los Gatos Creek trail users would be experiencing an Ldn above 60 dBA. Peak hour traffic levels at the Highway 17/Bear Creek interchange are comparable to peak hour traffic at the Camden Avenue/Highway 17 interchange (Caltrans 1993). Average daily traffic measured at the Camden interchange is greater than at Bear Creek/Highway 17 but noise levels taken from the Lexington Road area would give some indication of the noise environment in the Park. Visitors fishing at the northwest corner of the northern pond would be in a noise environment less than 55 Ldn. Visitors are exposed to high noise levels at Los Gatos Creek Trail but the trail is very heavily used. The noise level is not significant enough to influence recreational use at the Park.

The Campbell General Plan is currently being updated. These noise levels exceed the goals set forth in the Campbell 1975 Noise Element of the General Plan. However, average daily traffic levels in the vicinity of the Los Gatos Percolation Ponds have increased from 62,000 vehicles per day in 1974 to 106,000 vehicles per day. High visitation at this park indicates that visitors are not disturbed by the background noise environment generated by Highway 17 traffic and that the noise level is not a significant adverse impact.

Recreational uses at Los Gatos Percolation Ponds do not increase the existing noise environment. Visitors are exposed to high noise levels from the adjacent Highway 17 at Los Gatos Creek Park but the impact is not significant.

Stevens Creek Reservoir: There are no recreational activities permitted in the lease area of Stevens Creek Park that would significantly increase background noise levels.

No significant impact to ambient noise levels would result from project approval.

Uvas Reservoir: Noise levels are low, typical of a rural area in Santa Clara County. Recreational activities at Uvas Reservoir include non-power boating and fishing. The Reservoir is on Uvas Road, a two-lane road which serves a rural recreational community and recreational drivers. ~~Through traffic would use a multi-lane freeway such as Highway 101.~~ The area was not considered as a noise impact area, i.e, having ~~greater~~ an Ldn of greater than 55 dBA, for the noise study recently undertaken for the County General Plan update (Pack 1994).

No significant impact to ambient noise levels would result from project approval.

Noise sources at Uvas Reservoir would be traffic on Uvas Road, occasional aircraft overflys and natural noise sources such as birds and wind. No recreational activity permitted at the Reservoir, such as fishing or non-power boating would generate noise levels significant enough to substantially increase the ambient noise level. Both visitors to the Reservoir and residents on the north and south sides of the Reservoir would experience a typical rural noise environment.

Vasona Reservoir: Vasona Reservoir in Vasona Lake County Park is within the Town of Los Gatos which has mapped acceptable ambient noise levels for regions of the Town. The area is mapped for a daylight ambient noise level of 45 dBA. A violation of that noise level would be activity which raised the ambient level to 51 dBA. As with the County Noise Ordinance, a violation would occur if noise generated on one property resulted in the noise level being raised above 51 dBA on an adjacent property.

Recreational activities in Vasona Park include several that could generate intermittent noise. The park is very heavily used (300,000+ visitors in a six month period). The lease area is principally the northern portion of the County Park containing the Reservoir.

The lease area is bounded to the east by Highway 17, a principal north/south arterial in the Santa Clara Valley. A recent noise study completed for the Santa Clara County General Plan Update mapped Highway 17 south of Vasona Reservoir in unincorporated Santa Clara County (Edward L. Pack and Associates 1994). Traffic levels in this section of Highway 17 are comparable to traffic levels on Highway 17 near Vasona Lake County Park. The study found that a corridor roughly 180 feet on either side of Highway 17 had an Ldn above 65 dBA. Areas within approximately 430 feet of Highway 17 had an Ldn between 60 and 65 dBA. Sections of the eastern lease area are less than 430 feet from Highway 17 and, unless obstructed by vegetation, could experience similar noise levels to those found in the study. The remainder of the lease area would probably have an Ldn less than 60 dBA.

The lease area is bounded to the east by Highway 17, the west by University Avenue, on the south by Blossom Hill Road and a residential neighborhood to the north. Given the high ambient noise level in the lease area vicinity, and the scarcity of recreational activities in the northern end of the Park near the residential area, noise generated within the lease area would not expose sensitive receptors to unusually high noise levels. *The Los Gatos Police Department has received only a few complaints from surrounding residents regarding noise from Vasona Park over the past ten years and these complaints were principally in response to a few widely-attended special events that were held in the Park (L. Telfer, Los Gatos Police Department).*

No significant impact to ambient noise levels would result from project approval.

4.P. AESTHETICS

1. Reduction of quality, obstruction, or elimination of any scenic vista or view open to the public? (responses to questions 1 and 2 are combined)

All Parks. The subject of this Initial Study is an assessment of impacts that could result from the continuation of recreation at the reservoir sites. No recreational activities or facilities at the reservoirs would be of a size or mass that could obstruct or eliminate a public vista. The question of reduction of the quality of public views or vista is often a subjective determination, i.e., one visitor may consider motor boats using a reservoir as a detrimental impact on public vistas while other visitors would consider the presence of motor boats as an enhancement to the vista.

In order to avoid subjective determinations of aesthetic impacts, regulations, guidelines and policies can be used to assess the aesthetic impacts of a project. CEQA, in Appendix G, Significant Effects, defines a significant aesthetic impact as having "a substantial, demonstrable negative aesthetic effect".

The Santa Clara County General Plan, Natural Environment Element, includes six policies which are intended "to preserve and enhance the existing scenic values" within the County. The policies address acquisition of open space (NE 6), billboards and signing in rural areas (NE 7 & NE 8), siting and construction of roads and buildings (NE 9 & NE 10), use of native plants for landscaping (NE 11) and protection of riparian areas (NE 12). The operation of the lease areas for public recreation under the terms of the lease renewal agreement is in compliance with these General Plan Policies.

2. Creation of an aesthetically offensive site or structure open to public view?

All Parks: Park structures and improvements are designed to have minimal impact on the surrounding natural environment. Structural improvements associated with recreational activities are primarily parking areas, signs, picnic tables and grills. Some of the facilities, such as chemical toilets, are temporary in nature. Most reservoirs have only these few improvements. Park structures within the lease areas include entrance stations, ranger offices/visitor centers, restroom and staff housing. Other structures within the lease area include the structures at the Calero stables which are leased to a private concessionaire. Materials and paints for Park structures are chosen purposely to be as unobtrusive as possible in their park setting.

There are no structures or sites open to public view which would be considered aesthetically offensive.

3. Generation of new lighting or glare?

All Parks: The renewal of the lease agreement between the SCVWD and SCCPRD would not create new sources of lighting or glare. County Parks containing lease area lands, with the exception of Coyote Lake, are open to the public from 8:00 am to sunset and do not provide for nighttime lighting. Coyote Lake County Park is in a remote setting surrounded by undeveloped lands. Park lighting at night is restricted to lighting at the restrooms, the entrance station and the Park office. Lighting is for public safety considerations and to reduce vandalism. There are no sensitive receptors in the vicinity other than Park users.

The project does not or would not generate levels of lighting or glare that would result in a significant impact to sensitive receptors.

4.Q. RECREATION

1. **Location of a project on, within, or near a public or private park, wildlife preserve, scenic highway, or trail designation (including those proposed for the future)?**
(Response to Item Q.1 is combined with the response to Item Q.2 following).

2. **Reduced quality or quantity of existing recreational opportunities (e.g., birding, hiking, fishing, bicycling)?**
(Combined response to Items Q.1 and Q.2).

All lease lands are located within existing County parks and are the essential components of the recreational experience of those parks. The central focus of each of the parks is the presence of either the reservoir or the percolation pond and adjacent creek. Recreational opportunities available at each lease area are detailed in Chapter II. Project Description.

Lease lands also play an important role in the riparian trail systems of Santa Clara County. Lexington Reservoir County Park is the terminus of the Los Gatos Creek Trail, a pedestrian/bicycle trail which crosses lease lands in Vasona Lake County Park and Los Gatos Creek County Park. Anderson Reservoir County Park contains a trail which serves to extends the multi-use Coyote Creek Trail further south from the Burnett Parcel, the official terminus. Stevens Creek County Park and Lexington Reservoir County Park serve as important links to trails within adjacent Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District preserves.

The Regional Parks, Trails and Scenic Highways Element of the Santa Clara County General Plan (1981) maps proposed trails which would eventually link all County Parks in a vast county-wide trail network. Principal arterials would be trails following the main watercourses which flow roughly south to north into San Francisco Bay. Trails from the lease areas would join main trails planned along Coyote Creek, the Guadalupe River and Los Gatos Creek. All trails would intersect the Bay Trail planned to encircle San Francisco Bay.

The extension of the lease agreement enforces the continuance of each area as a unit of the County Park system ensuring the provision of public recreation at those Parks and as current or potential links in a county-wide trail network.

Denial of the lease agreement would result in the closure to the public of eight County Parks, a severe curtailment of recreational opportunities at three County Parks and no change at one lease area (see also response to Public Services, Parks and Recreation Facilities, Item J.1.D).

The approval of the project would result in significant beneficial impacts on recreation.

4.R. ARCHAEOLOGICAL/HISTORICAL/CULTURAL RESOURCES

Information in this Initial Study relies on existing documentation.

1. Location of a project in an area of potential archaeological or paleontological resources?

The reservoir sites are located in areas likely to have been used by the local Native Amercans groups because of the abundance of resources typically associated with streams, riparian areas and valleys. The Costanoan Tribe inhabited the San Francisco Bay region from the Golden Gate south to Monterey. Descendants of these people referred to themselves as "Ohlone". It is thought that the Ohlone Tribe began inhabiting the area in A.D. 500. The earliest radiocarbon dates that are available for the area to which the Ohlone came to live are 9,200 and 8,500 B.P. (years before present). The Ohlone were gatherers and hunters who depended on the native flora and fauna for subsistence. The abundance of high quality natural resources in the Santa Clara Valley and surrounding regions allowed them to settle in semi-sedentary villages (Darcey Rosenblatt, Environmental Science Associates, September 10, 1993).

The Santa Clara Valley and surrounding areas were once part of large Spanish and Mexican land grants and were first settled by Europeans in the 1700's and 1800's. Just as the native Ohlone found valleys and lands near steams to be highly desirable, the early European settlers also settled in many of the same places. The reservoir sites are located in areas that could potentially contain historic resources.

The reservoir sites are located in areas with the potential to have archaeological, paleontological, and historic resources. The continuation of the lease agreement, which continues the present level of public recreation in the lease areas, would not result in disruption to any unidentified cultural resources as no development would result from project approval.

2. Alteration, disruption, or destruction of a known archaeological or historic site, building, structure, or object of historic or cultural significance to a community or ethnic or social group; or a paleontological site?

Almaden Reservoir: Based on the Santa Clara County Planning Department's Archaeological Resource Map and Santa Clara County Department of Parks and Recreation records, there are no known historic or cultural resource sites on or near lease lands.

Anderson Reservoir: In 1991, the Santa Clara County Parks and Recreation Department prepared a cultural resources inventory for over 3000 acres in and around Anderson Lake Park. The findings of this report (Archaeological Resource Management, October 18, 1991) are summarized below.

The inventory consisted of an archival search for previously recorded sites and field reconnaissance. The archival search determined that there are several known sites on or near Park lands, primarily located near the spillway area. Two historic homes, the Phegley House (CA-SCI-323H) and the Harold Thomas Residence (CA-SCI-324H) are outside the Park and not on lease lands. Two prehistoric sites (CA-SCI-159 and -160) are near or overlap the two historic home sites and are also not on SCVWD lease lands. One prehistoric site (CA-SCI-358) is located near the spillway area and could be on or near lease lands.

Two previous archaeological studies that located cultural resources have been conducted around the Reservoir. One study conducted in 1979 for the County of Santa Clara Transportation Agency Cochrane Bridge-Anderson Reservoir Crossing Reconstruction project found an isolated Franciscan chert flake near the east shore area.

In 1985, monitoring for the Cross Valley Pipeline project was carried out by the Santa Clara Valley Water District as part of a pipeline construction project. Most of the earthmoving for the pipeline was outside the Park. However, a small portion of the pipeline runs near the spillway area. Archaeological monitors recovered artifacts which indicated the presence of a habitation site where SCI-159's and 358's boundaries were assumed to intersect. Archaeological consulting suggested that these two sites were in fact one habitation site that had its elements dispersed due to alluvial processes.

The surface reconnaissance carried out for the Anderson Lake Project found two prehistoric sites near Packwood Creek (sites T-1, T-2) which are outside the lease area. A third site was found on SCVWD lease lands approximately 40 feet below the normal high water line on the north shore of Anderson Lake in Packwood Cove (T-3). Another site (T-5) was also found below the high water contour along the northeast shore.

In addition to the above sites, an isolated artifact was located on the east shore of the Reservoir on lease lands.

The majority of Park facilities are located near the Park entrance by Cochrane Road and the spillway area. Park facilities include a parking area, group areas and picnic areas, and a boat launch. Park facilities and recreational activities do not impact known cultural resource sites.

The two prehistoric sites found during Archaeological Resource Management's surface reconnaissance are located below the normal high water line and are far from any intensive recreation areas. Continued recreation at the Reservoir would not impact these sites.

Calero Reservoir: An archaeological report prepared for CH2M-Hill found that previous archaeological studies prepared for SCVWD flood control projects and private development projects found many types of prehistoric resources, including village habitations, bedrock milling stations, rock art localities, and task-specific sites.

Review of existing literature revealed that cultural resource investigations within Calero County Park are primarily limited to the area near McKean Road. Two to four prehistoric sites, depending on the exact boundary line that is drawn, are located in Calero Park. Cultural resource sites in the vicinity of the stables are presumed to be on SCVWD lands. This includes the Bailey-Fellows house located on the eastern side of the Reservoir. This house is used as a residence by the stable operators and is secured behind stables fences and gates.

Recreational uses are not impacting known cultural resource sites on SCVWD lands at Calero Reservoir.

Chesbro Reservoir: Previous archaeological studies have located several sites along the shores of Chesbro Reservoir:

CA-SCI-223:	This site dates back to 380 years ago and was the subject of a lithic workshop which included some excavation of the site. The site is located along the north shore of the Reservoir west of Willow Springs Road.
CA-SCI-224:	Midden site located along the southern shore of the Reservoir near the western tip.
CA-SCI-52:	Midden and burial site located near CA-SCI-224 and along the southern shore near the western tip.
CA-SCI-245:	Prehistoric lithic workshop site which was excavated. Site located near the western tip of the Reservoir near a small grocery/bar.
CA-SCI-246:	A midden site located just west of the intersection of Oak Glen Avenue and Willow Springs Road.
CA-SCI-241:	Though given an identification number, there are no cultural resources associated with this identification number. The number may have been mistakenly assigned.

The only recreational facility at Chesbro is a public boat launch located at the eastern end of the Reservoir. There are no known cultural resource sites in this area.

Oak Glen Avenue closely follows the northern shoreline of the Reservoir and provides access to the water from pullouts located at wide portions of the road. There are no official parking areas or trails. One of these pullouts and the footpaths leading to the water are near site CA-SCI-223. Raising and lowering of the water level can result in erosion in the vicinity of this site. In addition, volunteer foot trails leading down from the parking pulloff above could inadvertently add to erosion. The following good practice measure is recommended to reduce any potential erosion:

Good Practice: To prevent any possible impact to site CA-SCI-223, the half of the large pullout west of the intersection of Oak Glen Avenue and Willow Springs Road should be barricaded to direct vehicle and foot traffic to the west side of the slope and away from the cultural resource site on the eastern slope near the shoreline.

Coyote Percolation Pond: Based on the Santa Clara County Planning Department's Archaeological Resource Map and Santa Clara County Department of Parks and Recreation records, there are no known historic or cultural resource sites on or near lease lands.

Coyote Reservoir: The Santa Clara County Parks and Recreation Department has prepared a cultural resource evaluation for 1,000 acres along the western banks of Coyote Lake. The results of this report (Archaeological Resource Management, April 16, 1991) are summarized below. The research included an archival search in the State records and a surface survey of the property. The archival research found no recorded historic or prehistoric sites within the project boundaries.

A general surface reconnaissance was conducted on all open land in the study area. A "controlled intuitive reconnaissance" was performed in places where burrowing animals, exposed banks and inclines, and other activities had revealed subsurface stratigraphy and soil contents.

The surface survey identified three prehistoric village sites and isolated artifacts were noted. The three prehistoric village sites (CA-SCI-711, CA-SCI-712, CA-SCI-713) are all located on the western shore of Coyote Lake on SCVWD lease lands. Sites CA-SCI-711 and 713 are below the high water mark and have been under water when the lake was full. Site CA-SCI-712 has been impacted through development of a campground, roads, and other improvements.

Eight isolated artifacts were noted and mapped in the field. Isolated artifacts are significant because they can indicate undetected archaeological deposits which may be in the vicinity. The majority of the isolated artifacts were found near the Lake's southwestern shore. The remaining artifacts were found near the Lake's northwestern shore.

To protect the CA-SCI-712 site from additional impacts, the Parks and Recreation Department has allowed poison oak and other shrub vegetation to grow over the area to discourage use by visitors without calling particular attention to the site.

Guadalupe Reservoir: Based on the Santa Clara County Planning Department's Archaeological Resource Map and Santa Clara County Department of Parks and Recreation records, there are no known historic or cultural resource sites on or near lease lands.

Lexington Reservoir: A cultural resources evaluation of the area surrounding Lexington Reservoir was conducted by Archaeological Resources Management (ARM) in 1986. ARM's research included an archival search through available state records and a surface reconnaissance of the Park area. The surface reconnaissance found one prehistoric site near the Reservoir dam (CA-SCI-603). This area is steep with difficult access and is not used by visitors. This site would not be impacted by continued recreation.

Los Gatos Percolation Ponds: Based on the Santa Clara County Planning Department's Archaeological Resource Map and Santa Clara County Department of Parks and Recreation records, there are no known historic or prehistoric resource sites on or near lease lands.

Stevens Creek Reservoir: The Santa Clara County Archaeological Resource Map shows two cultural resource sites in Stevens Creek County Park. One of the sites (CA-SCI-69) is within the Park near the western shore of the Reservoir, adjacent to but not within the SCVWD lease area. The second site, historic Villa Maria Winery (CA-SCI-397H), is also within the Park but not on lease lands. This complex consists of five historic buildings. There are no known historic or prehistoric sites on lease lands.

The Santa Clara County Parks and Recreation Department recently prepared a cultural resources inventory for portions of Stevens Creek County Park. This report (Environmental Science Associates, Inc., September 10, 1993) consisted of an archival search for information on any recorded archaeological sites or surveys within a mile of the subject area and a surface reconnaissance over part of the Park.

The archival search provided information on the two known cultural sites described above. In addition, the search determined that an archaeological survey conducted in 1983 for the SCVWD's Reservoir expansion project opposite the Lakeshore Picnic Area found no surface evidence of cultural resources.

A thorough surface reconnaissance was made of the all open land within the study area of the Park (including the reservoir area) and no clear evidence of additional prehistoric or historic sites was discovered in any of the areas surveyed.

However, the surface reconnaissance located several areas at the northern and southern ends of the reservoir and on the eastern side of the reservoir that may potentially contain prehistoric areas. Although little or no prehistoric remains were observed at these locations, their topography/proximity to natural resources suggests that these areas have a high likelihood of containing prehistoric remains.

Continued recreational use of the SCVWD lease lands would not impact cultural resources.

Uvas Reservoir: Based on the Santa Clara County Planning Department's Archaeological Resource Map and Santa Clara County Department of Parks and Recreation records, there are no known historic or prehistoric resource sites on or near lease lands.

Vasona Reservoir: Based on the Santa Clara County Planning Department's Archaeological Resource Map and Santa Clara County Department of Parks and Recreation records, there are no known historic or prehistoric resource sites on or near lease lands.

3. Physical change which would affect unique ethnic or cultural values?

All Parks: The proposed project, the extension of recreational use on SCVWD lands and reservoirs, proposes no changes to the physical environment of the lease areas but proposes the continuation of existing conditions. No impact to cultural resources would result from project approval. Mitigation has been recommended for the one location where recreational activities at Chesbro Reservoir could impact a known prehistoric site.

4. Restriction of existing religious or sacred uses?

The project would not adversely impact any known cultural or historic resources. The parks are open to the public and continuation of recreational uses of SCVWD lease lands would not restrict use of any religious or sacred places.

S. NATURAL RESOURCES

1. Substantial increase in or wasteful consumption of a nonrenewable resource such as minerals, precious metals, prime agricultural land, natural gas, oil, etc.?

All Parks: The extension of the lease agreement would not increase consumption of nonrenewable resources as no increase in the level of recreational facilities accompanies the action.

Continuation of the current level of recreation provided does not involve wasteful consumption of resources such as natural gas, oil, etc. Use of oil and gas is limited to patrol, maintenance and administrative vehicles (trucks, cars and boats) and maintenance equipment (tractors equipped with disc blades, chainsaws, etc.). Little electricity is consumed to provide recreation as the few permanent structures in parks are restrooms, staff housing and small office buildings. Eleven of the lease areas are open only for day use. Only Coyote Reservoir County Park and staff housing requires nighttime lighting for the campground restrooms.

The extension of the lease agreement would not result in the consumption of resources such as minerals, precious metals or natural gas. No conversion of prime agricultural land would result from project approval. No lands involved in the lease renewal are currently in active agriculture. No park lands rated as prime agricultural lands would be converted to a use that would preclude future agriculture.

The extension of the lease agreement would not result in significant consumption of nonrenewable resources.

SCVWD/SCCPRD
LEASE RENEWAL AGREEMENT

FINAL MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION AND INITIAL STUDY

SECTION 5.0
MITIGATION MEASURES

5.0 MITIGATION MEASURES

The following mitigations are recommended to reduce potentially significant project impacts to insignificance.

IMPACT: **Public Health & Safety**-Lack of continuous fencing around the dam spillway creates a hazardous condition for the public. **Potentially significant.**

Park(s): ALMADEN

Mitigation: As a condition of lease renewal, SCVWD shall install a sign warningthe public of the hazard and seek DOSD approval to install approximately 100 feet of continuous chain-link fencing along all exposed edges associated with the spillway.

Effect: This impact would be reduced to a less than significant level.

Implementation: *Attached as a condition of the proposed lease.*

IMPACT: **Public Health & Safety**-Possible adverse impact on human health and safety resulting from a limited number of and the poor condition of existing warning signs along the perimeter of the reservoir regarding mercury contamination of fish. **Potentially significant.**

Park(s): ALMADEN, GUADALUPE

Mitigation: As a condition of lease renewal, SCCPRD shall implement an improved signage program at Almaden and Guadalupe reservoirs. Existing warning signage shall be replaced, and additional multilingual warning signs shall be positioned at conspicuous volunteer trail cutting locations.

Effect: This impact would be reduced to a less than significant level.

Implementation: *Attached as a condition of the proposed lease.*

Impact: ***Water Quality***-*Illegal swimming in reservoirs which are emergency water sources for the District have the potential to result in a violation of DHS water quality orders resulting in a signficant water quality impact.*

Park(s): *Initial Focus on ALMADEN, ANDERSON, CALERO, AND COYOTE Reservoirs with application at all 12 lease areas.*

Mitigation: *SCCPRD, in cooperation with SCVWD, should implement an improved and agressive swimming prohibition sign program. Signs should convey both the "NO SWIMMING" message in a multilingual format using succinct language and symbolism demonstrating the rationale for this restriction at the reservoirs. Additional NO SWIMMING signs should be placed in all likely areas where visitors access the lakeshore (e.g., all developed recreation areas, volunteer trails, automobile pulloffs, etc). Phase 1 of the swimming prohibition sign program will focus on Almaden, Anderson, Calero and Coyote Reservoirs which are considered emergency water supply sources by the SCVWD. At the completion of Phase 1, Phase 2 signing will extend the new program to the remaining eight lease areas and any other appropriate bodies of water owned by the SCVWD.*

Effect: *The impact would be reduced to a less than significant level (C. Ling, Department of Health Services, September 8, 1994).*

Implementation: *Attached as a condition of the proposed lease.*

Impact: ***Animal Life/Plant Life***-*Recreational activities, such as fish stocking, recreational fishing, water skiing, could have an adverse impact on existing conditions at Coyote Percolation Pond.*

Parks: *Coyote Percolation Pond*

Mitigation: *Prior to the granting of any special use permits, or the development of park master plans, an environmental assessment of the new lease area shall be completed and any constraints identified.*

Effect: *Should avoid identify potential impact and constraint areas and avoid significant adverse impacts to animals and plants.*

Implementation: *Attached as a condition of the proposed lease.*

IMPACT: ***Animal Life****-Use of live bait fish by the fishing public at the lease area reservoirs and percolation ponds potentially increases the risk of adverse impact to the red-legged frog, a species proposed for listing under the Federal Endangered Species Act.* ***Potentially significant.***

Parks: *ALL PARKS*

Mitigation: *Within 12 months of the approval of the lease agreement the Santa Clara County Parks and Recreation Commission shall petition the State Fish and Game Commission to amend the California Sport Fishing Regulations, Article 3, Section 4.20 (4) to include a prohibition on the use of live bait fish in the lease area reservoirs and percolation ponds.*

If the California Fish and Game Commission amends the California Sport Fishing Regulations as requested by the Parks and Recreation Commission, the following actions shall be effected:

1. *The SCCPRD shall coordinate with the CDFG for the posting of temporary signing noticing the ban on bait fish. Temporary signing shall be posted at entrances and principal access areas to Parks.*
2. *The SCCPRD shall coordinate with the CDFG in the development of a notice announcing the ban on bait fish at lease area reservoirs. The notice shall be mailed to all Santa Clara County outlets for live bait fish for posting.*
3. *The Santa Clara County Parks and Recreation Department shall coordinate with CDFG in the development of a permanent signing program incorporating interpretive and regulatory information about the bait fish ban.*

Effect: *Should reduce the potential for impacts on the red-legged frog from activities conducted pursuant to the lease agreement.*

Implementation: *Attached as a condition of the proposed lease.*

Monitoring: *SCCPRD Lease Status Report*

SCVWD/SCCPRD
LEASE RENEWAL AGREEMENT

FINAL MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION AND INITIAL STUDY

SECTION 6.0
REFERENCES

6.0 REFERENCES

6.1. PERSONS CONTACTED

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6.3 DOCUMENTS PREPARATION

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Santa Clara Valley Water District/
Santa Clara County Parks and Recreation Department
Lease Renewal Project
Final Mitigated Negative Declaration and Initial Study
SCVWD Scope Number 5-9579-109

Attachment A

Response to Comments Received on the August 1994 Draft Negative Declaration and Initial Study

November 1994

Santa Clara Valley Water District

Santa Clara Valley Water District/
Santa Clara County
Parks and Recreation Department
Lease Renewal Project
Final Mitigated Negative Declaration
and Initial Study
SCVWD Scope Number 5-9579-109

Attachment A

Response to Comments
Received on the
August 1994 Draft Negative Declaration
and Initial Study

November 1994

Santa Clara Valley Water District
5750 Almaden Expressway
San Jose, CA 95118-3686
tel: 408-265-2600

printed on recycled paper

TABLE OF CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION . . . . A-iii

FINAL MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION A-1

COMMENTS RECEIVED ON THE DRAFT NEGATIVE DECLARATION A-3

RESPONSE TO COMMENT LETTERS RECEIVED ON THE DRAFT NEGATIVE DECLARATION A-21

MITIGATION MONITORING PLAN A-35

INTRODUCTION

The Final Negative Declaration and Initial Study for the Santa Clara Valley Water District and Santa Clara County Parks and Recreation Department Lease Renewal Project was prepared in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). This document is comprised of four parts:

- Part 1: Final Mitigated Negative Declaration
- Part 2: Comment Letters Received on the Draft Negative Declaration and Initial Study
- Part 3: Responses to the Comment Letters Received
- Part 4: Mitigation Monitoring Plan

The Draft Negative Declaration and Initial Study for the Santa Clara Valley Water District and Santa Clara County Parks and Recreation Department Lease Renewal Project was circulated for public and agency review. The department date was August 31, 1994. The clearance date was October 3, 1994. In addition to the Governor's Office of Planning and Research, the following agencies were sent a copy of the document for review:

United States Army Corps of Engineers
United States Environmental Protection Agency
United States Fish and Wildlife Service
California Department of Boating and Waterways
California Department of Conservation
California Department of Fish and Game
California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection
California Department of Health Services
California Department of Parks and Recreation
California Department of Transportation
California Department of Water Resources, Division of Safety of Dams
California State Office of Historic Preservation
California State Lands Commission
Bay Area Regional Water Quality Control Board
Santa Clara County Advance Planning Department
Santa Clara County Parks and Recreation Department
Santa Clara County Environmental Health Services Department
City of Palo Alto Planning Department
City of Cupertino Planning Department
City of Milpitas Planning Department
City of Santa Clara Planning Department
City of Mountain View Planning Department
City of Sunnyvale Planning Department
City of Gilroy Planning Department
City of Morgan Hill Planning Department
City of Los Gatos Planning Department
City of San Jose Planning Department

The following special districts, organizations and affected businesses were sent a copy of the document for review:

- Lake Canyon Community Services District
- Loma Prieta Resource Conservation District
- Evergreen Resource Conservation District
- Santa Clara County Farm Bureau
- Holiday Lakes Estates Home Owners Association
- Lexington Hills Association
- Garrod Stables
- Santa Clara County Cattlemen's Association
- Green Belt Alliance
- Bay Area Ridge Trail
- Responsible Organized Mountain Peddlers
- New Almaden Quicksilver County Park Association
- Santa Clara County Horseman's Association
- Committee for Green Foothills
- Loma Prieta Chapter, Sierra Club

The Final Negative Declaration was prepared with the assistance of:

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Palo Alto, CA 94301
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SCVWD/SCCPRD
LEASE RENEWAL AGREEMENT

ATTACHMENT A
PART 1

FINAL MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION

Attachment A, Part 1

SANTA CLARA VALLEY WATER DISTRICT
5750 Almaden Expressway, San Jose, CA 95118 **(408) 265-2600**

FINAL MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION

[*NEW TEXT IS ITALICIZED*, ~~OLD TEXT IS STRUCKOUT~~]

DATE: November 1994

SUBJECT: Negative Declaration, SCVWD Project Number 5-9579-109

Pursuant to the State Public Resources Code and the CEQA Guidelines, as amended to date, a Draft Negative Declaration is hereby made on the project listed below:

> Renewal of the Lease Agreement between Santa Clara Valley Water District (SCVWD) and the Santa Clara County Parks and Recreation Department (SCCPRD) that grants SCCPRD the management of SCVWD reservoirs and adjacent lands for the provision of public recreation. The lease renewal is for a 15 year period and would allow for the continuation of current levels of recreation at the 12 reservoir and percolation pond sites that are included in the lease. Approval of the lease agreement does not involve the implementation of any park improvements other than minor improvements to existing facilities.

FINDINGS

> The SCVWD Board of Directors, having reviewed the Initial Study for the proposed project and attached Mitigation Measures which reduce potentially significant impacts to a level of insignificance, find that the lease renewal project would not have a significant effect on the environment. The SCVWD Board of Directors finds the Mitigated Negative Declaration to be the appropriate CEQA document for this project.

BASIS OF FINDINGS

> The lease renewal project could result in the following adverse impacts: potential hazard to public safety at the spillway of Almaden Reservoir~~,~~*;* potential public health hazard from inadequate signing regarding mercury contamination of fish at Almaden, Guadalupe and Calero Reservoirs*; potential hazard to water quality from illegal swimming at Almaden, Anderson, Calero and Coyote Reservoirs; and potential impacts to aquatic life from fishing through the legal use of introduced bait fish species.* The Initial Study has determined that these potentially adverse impacts can be reduced to a level of insignificance by the implementation of proposed mitigation measures.

The Draft Negative Declaration was circulated for review from August 31, 1994 to October 3, 1994. This document, Attachment A, includes comment letters received on the August 1994 Draft document, responses to comments received and the mitigation monitoring plan for the lease agreeement. Documents used in preparation of the Initial Study can be reviewed at Santa Clara Valley Water District Headquarters Building, 5750 Almaden Expressway, San Jose, California.

SCVWD/SCCPRD
LEASE RENEWAL AGREEMENT
FINAL MITIGATED
NEGATIVE DECLARATION AND
INITIAL STUDY

ATTACHMENT A
PART 2

COMMENT LETTERS RECEIVED

COMMENTS RECEIVED ON THE DRAFT NEGATIVE DECLARATION

Attachment A, Part 2

Letter #	Commentor	Comment Letter Page Number	Response to Comment Page Number
1.	Governor's Office of Planning and Research, Michael Chiriatti, Jr., Chief, State Clearinghouse	A-5	A-21
2.	United States Fish and Wildlife Service, Joel A. Medlin, Field Supervisor	A-6	A-21
3.	California Department of Fish and Game, Brian Hunter, Regional Manager, Region 3	A-11	A-27
4.	California Department of Health Services, Drinking Water Field Operations Branch, Monterey District, Catherine S. Ling, P.E.	A-13	A-28
5.	California Department of Water Resources, Division of Safety of Dams, Vernon H. Persson, Chief	A-15	A-30
6.	Santa Clara County Environmental Health Services Department, Art Kaupert R.E.H.S.	A-16	A-30
7.	Audubon Society -- Trish Mulvey	A-18	A-31
8.	Santa Clara County Cattleman's Association, John Scherer, Secretary	A-19	A-32
9.	Libby Lucas, 174 Yerba Santa Avenue, Los Altos	A-20	A-32

STATE OF CALIFORNIA
PETE WILSON, *Governor*

GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF PLANNING AND RESEARCH
1400 TENTH STREET
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814

Comment Letter 1

10/6 PC John w/a
KE Russick

September 30, 1994

PAMELA JOHN
SANTA CLARA VATER VALLEY DISTRICT
5750 ALMADEN EXPRESSWAY
SANTA CLARA, CA 95118

Subject: RESERVOIR & PERCOLATION POND LEASE RENEWAL PROJECT SCH #: 94083089

Dear PAMELA JOHN:

The State Clearinghouse has submitted the above named proposed Negative Declaration to selected state agencies for review. The review period is now closed and the comments from the responding agency(ies) is(are) enclosed. On the enclosed Notice of Completion form you will note that the Clearinghouse has checked the agencies that have commented. Please review the Notice of Completion to ensure that your comment package is complete. If the comment package is not in order, please notify the State Clearinghouse immediately. Remember to refer to the project's eight-digit State Clearinghouse number so that we may respond promptly.

Please note that Section 21104 of the California Public Resources Code required that:

> "a responsible agency or other public agency shall only make substantive comments regarding those activities involved in a project which are within an area of expertise of the agency or which are required to be carried out or approved by the agency."

Commenting agencies are also required by this section to support their comments with specific documentation.

These comments are forwarded for your use in preparing your final EIR. Should you need more information or clarification, we recommend that you contact the commenting agency at your earliest convenience.

This letter acknowledges that you have complied with the State Clearinghouse review requirements for draft environmental documents, pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act. Please contact at (916) 445-0613 if you have any questions regarding the environmental review process.

Sincerely,

Michael Chiriatti, Jr.
Chief, State Clearinghouse

Enclosures
cc: Resources Agency

10/14 PCJOHN
DO02424

Comment Letter 2

MARCH 3, 1849

United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Ecological Services
Sacramento Field Office
2800 Cottage Way, Room E-1803
Sacramento, California 95825-1846

In Reply Refer To:
PPN 1628

October 6, 1994

Ms. Pamela John
Santa Clara Valley Water District
5750 Almaden Expressway
San Jose, CA 95118

Subject: Santa Clara Valley Water District, Draft Negative Declaration for Reservoir and Percolation Pond Lease Renewal, Various Creeks, Santa Clara County.

Dear Ms. John:

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) has reviewed the Draft Negative Declaration for the lease renewal between the Santa Clara Valley Water District (SCVWD) and the Santa Clara County Parks and Recreation Department (SCCPRD) in Santa Clara County. The following comments are provided to assist in your preparation of the final environmental document and are not intended to take the place of any formal comments which may be required at a later date under the auspices of the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act.

Project Description

The SCVWD is proposing to enter into a 15-year lease agreement with the SCCPRD. The lease would allow SCCPRD to manage reservoir, percolation ponds and associated lands for public recreation. A total of 12 reservoir and percolation pond sites would be included in the lease. The reservoir and pond sites impound water within Coyote, Uvas, Calero, Llagas, Guadalupe, Los Gatos, and Stevens Creek drainages.

Natural Resources

The natural assemblage of fish and aquatic organisms within streams and watersheds of the Santa Clara valley have been altered. For example, the Final Environmental Assessment for the Coyote Creek Element of the Coyote and Berryessa Creeks (USACOE May 1993) indicated that at least 16 native resident and anadromous fish species were historically present in Coyote Creek. However, a recent fisheries investigation found only six native fish species remain in Coyote Creek: California roach, hitch, Pacific lamprey, Sacramento blackfish, Sacramento sucker, and steelhead trout. In the Guadalupe River, over two hundred probable chinook salmon redds were found in 1986. For your information, the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) has been petitioned to list both steelhead and coho populations as either threatened or endangered along the West coast. Several sensitive amphibian and reptile species including the foothill yellow-legged frog, California red-legged frog, and western pond turtle may be found within the drainages managed by the SCVWD.

Several introduced species are present throughout Coyote Creek and possibly on other creeks as well, including bluegill, carp, fathead minnow, largemouth bass, and mosquito fish (USACOE May 1993). In terms of amphibians, bullfrogs are known to be present in many of the drainages.

The decline of native aquatic fauna can be attributed to several factors, principally habitat alterations and introduced species. Human alteration of native habitats along with the introduction of introduced fish species, primarily from eastern U.S., have led to the decline of native fish assemblages. Leidy and Fiedler (1985) note the increased presence of introduced species with increased levels of human disturbance in streams draining into the San Francisco Bay. Introduced fishes such as mosquito fish, bluegill, and green sunfish are abundant in disturbed locations, typically containing pools with little shading of the water surface by terrestrial vegetation (Leidy 1984).

Factors that have led to the decline of anadromous fish populations in the Santa Clara Valley include upstream and downstream fish passage problems (e.g., instream impoundments, lack of attraction flows, and blocked fish ladders), sporadic base flows, adverse water quality conditions, inundation/dewatering of redds through dam construction, and insufficient spawning and rearing habitats. In addition, the Final Environmental Assessment indicated that the number of introduced species could be the result of periodic introduction from impoundments such as Anderson Reservoir or percolation ponds.

Impoundments also have been cited as a major threat to California red-legged frog populations through the 1) introduction and spread of exotic fish and bullfrogs, 2) habitat fragmentation, 3) direct loss of habitat, and 4) altered downstream hydrologic conditions that either favor exotic predators or make conditions unsuitable for frog production.

Service Policy

The Service places high priority on protecting anadromous steelhead and salmon resources in coastal streams in California. It is Region 1 policy of the Service to encourage the scientific management of anadromous fishery resource. Management will be aimed at the restoration of each race of the salmonid fishery to waters where such fisheries once existed.

To offset unavoidable resource losses from acceptable projects, the Service recommends that appropriate mitigation be provided. The Council on Environmental Quality regulations for implementing the National Environmental Policy Act define mitigation to include: 1) avoiding the impact; 2) minimizing the impact; 3) rectifying the impact; 4) reducing or eliminating the impact over time; and 5) compensating for impacts. The Service supports and adopts this definition of mitigation and considers the specific elements to represent the desirable sequence of steps in the mitigation planning process.

Specific Comments

The draft negative declaration finds that the lease renewal project would not have a significant effect on the environment. Furthermore, the Initial Study Checklist concludes that the lease agreement will not result in the introduction of exotic or invasive animal species, in a barrier to movement, or in a loss/deterioration of existing fish and wildlife habitat. Based on the provided information, we disagree with this position. Operation of the percolation ponds and reservoirs to provide recreation and water supply functions will continue to adversely affect populations of native aquatic organisms within drainages through the perpetuation of unfavorable habitat conditions and continued spread of introduced species. 2-1

Bait fish such as fathead minnows are known to be present in Coyote Creek. Fishing activities may continue to spread introduced fish such as fathead minnows throughout the drainages, leading to the displacement of native aquatic fauna. 2-2 The negative declaration notes that several reservoirs are stocked with trout as well as other fish species. Stocking of hatchery reared fish are known to spread infectious disease among wild populations as well as interbreed with existing, native fish and resulting in genetic mixing. We recommend that the SCCPRD develop and implement guidelines that would prevent the release of non-native fish into reservoirs associated with this lease agreement. In addition, we recommend that the SCCPRD and the California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG) reexamine existing stocking of hatchery trout within the reservoirs. Certainly, no new stocking of fish should be allowed at new lease sites (e.g., Coyote percolation pond). Also, it may be necessary to examine the effectiveness of existing fish screens, following large storm events, in preventing downstream transport of hatchery trout and exotic fish. 2-3

The impacts of impoundments on instream aquatic life are well-documented. Although no suite of mitigation actions can fully mitigate for impacts to fisheries, there are operational measures that can reduce the level of impacts associated with impoundments. Water management guidelines could be implemented to provide: 1) sufficient channel flows for the transport gravels and maintenance of pools, riffles, and riparian habitat, 2) sufficient attraction flows for upstream migration of salmonids, 3) adequate flows and water quality conditions for successful incubation and rearing, and 4) in dry years, sufficient pulse flows to facilitate outmigration of anadromous fish. 2-4

It is our understanding that with the sole exception of Uvas Creek, the SCVWD is not required to provide minimum instream flows for the maintenance of suitable habitat conditions for aquatic organisms. For all streams affected by the impoundments, we recommend that the final document provide additional information regarding measures that would provide suitable habitat conditions for native aquatic organisms. The first step in this process would entail the gathering of baseline population and habitat conditions. We recognize that the SCVWD has, on its own accord, initiated surveys to determine the extent of herpetofauna within its management boundaries. We support the continuation of such efforts.

We understand that the SCCPRD is developing Resource Management Plans for its park units. We recommend that the SCCPRD coordinate its efforts with applicable resource agencies including the Service, CDFG, and NMFS. Because it is likely that currently proposed or petitioned species could become listed in the near future and because new percolation ponds are proposed on streams in the Santa Clara Valley (RP 11214-98E), the SCCPRD and SCVWD should start the development of a regional habitat conservation plan. Listed species are fully protected under the mandates of the Endangered Species Act (Act), as amended. Section 9 of the Act and its implementing regulations prohibit the "take" of a federally listed fish and wildlife species by any person, as defined by the Act. Take is defined by the Act "to harass, harm, pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture, or collect" any such species. Take may include significant habitat modification or degradation where it actually kills or injures wildlife by significantly impairing essential behavioral patterns, including breeding, feeding, or shelter (50 CFR § 17.3). 2-5

Take incidental to an otherwise lawful activity may be authorized by one of two procedures. If a Federal agency is involved with the permitting, funding, or carrying out of this project, initiation of formal consultation is required between that agency and the Service pursuant to section 7 of the Act if it is determined that the proposed project may affect a federally listed species. Federal agencies must confer if they determine that the continued existence of a proposed species may be jeopardized by the project. Such consultation or conference could result in a biological opinion that addresses anticipated effects of the project to listed and proposed species. The biological opinion may authorize a limited level of incidental take for federally listed species.

If a Federal agency is not involved with the project, and federally listed species may be taken as part of the project, then an "incidental take" permit pursuant to Section 10(a) of the Act should be obtained. The Service may issue such a permit upon completion by the permit applicant of a satisfactory conservation plan for the listed species that may be affected by the project. Further details regarding habitat conservation plans can be obtained from Mike Horton of my staff at the telephone number listed below.

Conclusion

At this time, we cannot concur that project impacts on biological resources are insignificant. The negative declaration fails to address continued impacts to fish and wildlife resources that would be facilitated by this lease agreement. Unless appropriate mitigation measures are implemented to protect and enhance conditions for fish and wildlife, we recommend that an environmental impact report be prepared that addresses our concerns in a more comprehensive fashion. 2-6

If you have any questions regarding these comments, please contact Darren Fong of my staff at (916) 978-5804 (Ext. 352) regarding general fish and wildlife issues, Mike Horton at (916) 978-4866 regarding habitat conservation plans, or Betty Warne at (916) 978-5805 regarding sensitive plants.

Sincerely,

Joel A Medlin

Joel A. Medlin
Field Supervisor

Enclosure

cc: Reg. Dir., (ARD-ES), FWS, Portland, OR
CDFG (M. Roper), Region III, Yountville, CA
SWRCB, Water Rights Division (W. Petit), POB 944213, Sacramento, CA 94244-2130
State Lands Commission (D. Jacobs), 1807 13th St., Sacramento, CA, 95814

Literature Cited:

Leidy, R.A. 1984. Distribution and ecology of stream fishes in the San Francisco Bay drainage. Hilgardia. 52(8):1-175.

Leidy, R.A. and P.L. Fiedler. 1985. Human disturbance and patterns of fish species diversity in the San Francisco Bay drainage, California. Biological Conservation. 33:247-267.

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACOE), May 1993. Proposed Refinements to the Coyote Creek Element of the Coyote and Berryessa Creeks (Final Environmental Assessment). Prepared by CH2MHill. np.

STATE OF CALIFORNIA - THE RESOURCES AGENCY
PETE WILSON, *Governor*

DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME
POST OFFICE BOX 47
YOUNTVILLE, CALIFORNIA 94599
(707) 944-5500

Comment Letter 3

10/7

PC John
KI Russick

October 4, 1994

Ms. Pamela John
Santa Clara Valley Water
District
5750 Almaden Expressway
San Jose, California 95118

Dear Ms. John:

Santa Clara Valley Water District/Santa Clara County Parks and Recreation Department Lease Renewal Agreement

Department of Fish and Game personnel have reviewed the Draft Mitigated Negative Declaration and Initial Study for the above-named lease project. This lease project between Santa Clara Valley Water District (SCVWD) and Santa Clara County Parks and Recreation Department would be for public recreational use of 10 SCVWD reservoirs, two SCVWD percolation ponds, and SCVWD lands adjacent to these facilities. The lease would allow the continuation of current level recreation for 15 years on 11 of the 12 waters and create recreation on one new water.

In the Animal Life section, it is stated that a "significant but can be mitigated" impact exists for changes in the diversity of species or numbers of any species of animals. The Department is concerned that the introduction of exotic fish could pose a significant threat to native fishes as has been experienced elsewhere. It is stated in the document that there is no impact from exotic species when there is no control over fishermen who move fish. Movement of fish between water bodies is prohibited by Section 1.63 of the California Sport Fishing Regulations. Unauthorized introductions have resulted in substantial resource damage and expense to the public to control. The impacts of the public moving fish and potentially introducing exotic species and measures to deal with it need to be addressed before this lease agreement is authorized. 3-1

On the topic of red-legged frogs, it is stated on page 4-35 that impacts to these frogs from predation by stocked fish would need to be assessed if the species gains Federal listing. Currently, the red-legged frog is a California species of special concern. Given that status, impacts to the red-legged frog need to be addressed prior to this lease agreement taking effect. 3-2

Lastly, no recreation program is identified for the new proposed lease addition, Coyote Percolation Pond. The Department requests a separate environmental assessment completed and a proposed recreation program be identified before the percolation pond is opened to recreation. 3-3

If you have any questions regarding our comments, please contact Margaret Roper, Fishery Biologist, at (408) 842-8917; or Carl Wilcox, Environmental Services Supervisor, at (707) 944-5525.

Sincerely,

Brian Hunter

Brian Hunter
Regional Manager
Region 3

STATE OF CALIFORNIA–HEALTH AND WELFARE AGENCY PETE WILSON, *Governor*

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES
DRINKING WATER FIELD OPERATIONS BRANCH
MONTEREY DISTRICT
BERKELEY WAY, ROOM 458
BERKELEY, CA 94704-1011
(510) 540-2158 FAX (510) 540-2152

Comment Letter 4

9/14 PCJohn
KERussick

September 8, 1994

Ms. Pamela John, P.E.
Santa Clara Valley Water District
5750 Almaden Expressway
San Jose, CA 95118

Dear Ms. John:

Santa Clara Valley Water District - System 43-027: Draft Mitigated Negative Declaration and Initial Study For Lease Renewal with SCCPRD

The Department has reviewed the Draft Mitigated Negative Declaration and Initial Study For Lease Renewal with Santa Clara County Parks and Recreation Department (SCCPRD), and has the following comments:

1. **Section 4.B (6) Hydrology/Water Quality, All Parks:** The draft document recommends that as a good practice measure, SCCPRD, in cooperation with Santa Clara Valley Water District (SCVWD), should implement an improved swimming prohibition sign program. The measure is recommended to reduce incidences of illegal swimming in SCVWD reservoirs, particularly in reservoirs that may be used for public water supply (Anderson, Coyote, Calero and Almaden). Due to the difficulty of patrolling and monitoring activities on the reservoirs, and the potential for bacteriological and pathogenic contamination of the water supply from illegal swimming, the Department recommends that *illegal swimming* be declared an impact at Anderson, Coyote, Calero and Almaden Parks. The Department finds that an aggressive swimming prohibition sign program would mitigate the impact to a less than significant level. Such a program would consist of multilingual and symbolic signs placed at all areas where the public may access the shoreline of the terminal reservoirs, including automobile pulloffs, unofficial "volunteer" trails and all developed recreation areas. **4-1**

2. **Section 4.B (6) Hydrology/Water Quality, Coyote Lake Park:** The draft document recommends that as a good practice measure, SCCPRD should provide additional chemical toilets around the perimeter of the reservoir in access areas frequently used by park visitors. The Department agrees with this good practice measure, and further recommends that SCCPRD arrange for service and pumping of the chemical toilets based on the anticipated number of park users, especially during peak use months. Implementation of such a measure will increase the likelihood that visitors will use the appropriate facilities, thus decreasing the incidence of untreated waste products entering the water supply. **4-2**

Your continued efforts in ensuring a safe, wholesome and potable water supply to your customers are greatly appreciated. If you have any questions regarding these comments, please contact Andrew Gere at (510) 849-5250.

Sincerely,

Catherine S. Ling, P.E.
District Engineer
Monterey District
Drinking Water Field Operations Branch

cc: Santa Clara County Health Department

State of California

The Resources Agency

Comment Letter 5

Memorandum

Date : SEP 22 1994

To : 1. Project Coordinator
Resources Agency

2. Ms. Pamela John
Santa Clara Valley Water District
5750 Almaden Expressway
San Jose, California 95118

From : **Department of Water Resources**

Subject : SCH #94083089, Draft Mitigated Negative Declaration and Initial Study, Lease Renewal Agreement Between the Santa Clara Valley Water District and the Santa Clara County Parks and Recreation Department
Santa Clara County

The Division of Safety of Dams has reviewed the subject report and finds the proposed lease renewal agreement will not affect the Division's supervision over the Santa Clara Valley Water District's dams under its jurisdiction. Eleven jurisdictional dams and reservoirs are subject to this lease agreement. **5-1**

If you have any questions, contact Area Engineer Michel I. Zumot at (916) 323-5365 or Regional Engineer Clifford S. Nomura at (916) 323-5300.

Vernon H. Persson

Vernon H. Persson, Chief
Division of Safety of Dams
(916) 445-7606

Comment Letter 6

County of Santa Clara

Environmental Resources Agency
Department of Environmental Health
Central Office
2220 Moorpark Avenue, East Wing, Room 100
San Jose, California 95128-2690
(408) 299-6060 FAX 298-6261

1850

Hand·Del 10/3 FC John
KE Russick

October 3, 1994

Pamela John, P.E.
Santa Clara Valley Water District
5750 Almaden Expressway
San Jose, CA 95118

Subject: SCVWD/SCCPRD Lease Renewal Project; Draft Mitigated Negative Declaration and Initial Study

The subject draft has been reviewed by the Santa Clara County Department of Environmental Health and the following comments are offered for your consideration.

1. The Park map on page 2-49 shows restrooms at the boat launch area and sandy beach picnic area. The nature of these facilities should be described in the narrative on page 2-50 (last paragraph) to be consistent with facility descriptions elsewhere in the text. **6-1**
2. This Department supports inclusion in the lease agreement of the recommended "Good Practice" to provide additional toilets at areas frequently used by park visitors at Coyote Reservoir (p. 4-21, second paragraph). **6-2**
3. Residential areas within single-family dwellings should read "... residential areas with single family dwellings..." (p. 4-71, first line of second paragraph under Santa Clara County). **6-3**
4. Strike the first "greater" so the next to last line in the sixth paragraph on page 4-78 reads "...having ~~greater~~ an Ldn of greater than 55 dBA,... ". **6-4**
5. In the next to the last paragraph on page 4-79 Highway 1 should read Highway 17. **6-5**
6. Reference has been made to noise complaints, or the lack thereof, from residential areas located adjacent to other lease sites. Similar information should be included in the discussion of noise impacts from Vasona Reservoir (p. 4-79). **6-6**

Board of Supervisors: Michael M. Honda, Zoe Lofgren, Ron Gonzales, Rod Diridon, Dianne McKenna

If there are any questions, please feel free to contact the undersigned at 408-299-2454 or 408-299-6060.

Art Kaupert

ART KAUPERT, R.E.H.S.
SR. ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SPECIALIST
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

File

TELEPHONE CONVERSATION **Comment Letter 7**

DATE 9/14/94 TIME 9 a.m PHONE NO. (415) 326 - 0252

PERSON CALLING/C~~ALLED~~ TRISH MULVEY

AGENCY REPRESENTED AUDUBON SOC.

CONVERSATION

Re: Lease Renewal Project — Draft Neg. Dec.

Trish said she didn't have comments except typos on page 2-58 & 2-84. 7-1/7-2

She is going to pass along this draft to others in her org.

Santa Clara Valley Water District
FC 817 (01-27-92)

PCJ
(Initials)

Comment Letter 8

TELEPHONE CONVERSATION

DATE 9/20/94 TIME 3 p.m. PHONE NO. (408) 842-2932

PERSON CALLING/~~CALLED~~ John Scherer, Secretary

AGENCY REPRESENTED Santa Clara County Cattleman's Association

CONVERSATION Subject: Lease Renewal Project

He received a copy for review of the draft Neg. Dec. — He sent this around his Assoc.^{n} mtg. last Tuesday & he also personally reviewed the report.

He has no comments from his Association

Santa Clara Valley Water District
FC 817 (01-27-92)

PCJ
(Initials)

Comment Letter 9

October 3, 1994

10/3 ORIG PCJ
KER

Pamela John, P.E.
Santa Clara Valley Water District
5750 Almaden Expressway
San Jose, CA 95118

FAX 408 268-7687

Dear Pamela,

In regards to your Draft Mitigated Negative Declaration and Initial Study of the Santa Clara Valley Water District/SAnta Clara County Parks and Recreation Department Lease Renewal Project, I find a negative declaration not in the best interests of the communtiy in general and natural resources and water quality preservation in particular. 9-1

In consideration of the anticipated water quality standards (EPA) that seek to lessen the need for chemical treatment that may be deleterious to the public health and well being, in drinking water, I would favor a more conservative approach to reservoir management practices.

Where water supplies are percolated through sediments in ponds and through stream gravels, there would seem to be a natural filtering capability that would compensate for any adverse effects of recreation activity in the watershed. This would presume maintaining vegetative buffers of some depth and soil retention capacity, and abstaining from chemical maintenance practices.

The facilities that could comply with this criteria would be Vasona Reservoir, Coyote and Los Gatos Percolation Ponds, Lexington and Stevens Creek Reservoirs, Uvas and Calero.

The restraints that I would feel advisable however are the preservation of healthy vegetated hillsides and shores and streambanks. This could be accomplished by restrictive public access points and perhaps seasonal use, or use on a rotational schedule. There is just so much natural regenerative capability in any landscape, and our California landscape is a delicate ecosystem, that in years of drought is particularly sensitive.

In the Anderson and Coyote Reservoirs a considerable buffer is best for drinking water quality, like the entire uphill and upstream watershed would appear advisable if one is to even attempt to approach the conservative practices of the San Francisco Water District. This would also afford some protection of valuable wildlife resources and provide safer fire prevention land uses.

The biodiversity concerns of watershed management in Santa Clara County must also be factored into the reservoir preserves and areas that are especially rich in valuable and sensitive flora and fauna should be protected from the public to a degree.

Therefore, with the mandated conservation ethic of drinking water standards, and biodiversity and wildlife preservation, and with the projected population demands of Santa Clara County it appears that reservoirs of the Santa Clara Valley Water District will not be able to meet the recreation needs of the area for the next century.

I feel this fact should be fully realized and that alternative water recreation reserves should be acquired for that sole public purpose, and perhaps even outside of this county. And the South Bay does not look promising.

Sincerely,

Libby Lucas

Libby Lucas
174 Yerba Santa Avenue
Los Altos, CA 94022

SCVWD/SCCPRD LEASE RENEWAL AGREEMENT FINAL MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION AND INITIAL STUDY

ATTACHMENT A
PART 3

RESPONSE TO COMMENTS

RESPONSE TO COMMENT LETTERS RECEIVED ON THE DRAFT NEGATIVE DECLARATION

Attachment A, Part 3

COMMENT LETTER 1. GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF PLANNING AND RESEARCH, STATE CLEARINGHOUSE, MICHAEL CHIRIATTI, JR., CHIEF.

No response required.

COMMENT LETTER 2. UNITED STATES FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE, JOEL A. MEDLIN, FIELD SUPERVISOR

Response to Comment 2-1: The project subject to the discretionary approval and subject to CEQA review is the renewal of a lease agreement between the Santa Clara Valley Water District (SCVWD or "District") and the Santa Clara County Parks and Recreation Department (SCCPRD or "County"). The proposed lease renewal would allow public recreation managed by the SCCPRD to continue at 12 SCVWD reservoir and percolation pond sites throughout Santa Clara County for a fifteen year period. "Project impacts" assessed under CEQA in this document are environmental impacts resulting from the use of the SCVWD lease lands for public recreation as part of the SCCPRD Park System (see Initial Study page 1-1).

The primary mandate of the SCVWD is the provision of a public water supply. The District also has the associated responsibilities of groundwater recharge and flood control. Leasing of lands to SCCPRD for public recreation is a secondary priority for the District. Recreational uses cannot degrade water quality or in any way impede the realization of the primary mandates of the SCVWD established for the public good (see Initial Study page 4-38 and 4-39).

The Commentor states that, "Operation of the percolation ponds and reservoirs to provide recreation and water supply functions will continue to adversely affect populations of native aquatic organisms within drainages through the perpetuation of unfavorable habitat conditions and continued spread of introduced species."

It is outside the scope of this Initial Study to assess environmental impacts that result from SCVWD operations providing a public water supply, recharge of groundwater supply or flood control. Recreation use of the lease area sites is permitted only to the extent that it does not interfere with the SCVWD's principal responsibilities to the community (see Initial Study page 4-39). It is this recreational use, managed by the SCCPRD, which is the project at hand.

The specific environmental issues raised in Comment Letter 2 are addressed in Responses to Comments 2-2 through 2-6.

Response to Comment 2-2 and 2-3: As described on Initial Study pages 4-33 through 4-35, potential habitat exists in the lease areas for several aquatic animals considered sensitive species by either State or Federal law. Initial Study Page 4-35 addressed the potential impact from the stocking of rainbow trout for recreational fishing. Comment 2-2 addresses the related issue of the legal use of live bait fish at lease area reservoirs and consequences of the release of these bait fish into County reservoirs. Comment 2-3 lists the USFWS' recommendations for reducing impacts to aquatic species by introduced exotic fish species, both as bait fish and as game fish.

Red-legged Frog

According to the USFWS data, many of the lease area reservoirs have potential habitat for the red-legged frog, Rana aurora drayonii, a species proposed for listing as endangered under the Federal Endangered Species Act Federal Register, Volume 59, No. 22, Wednesday, February 2, 1994).

Surveys since 1985 show the presence of red-legged frogs in many of the creeks that feed into SCVWD reservoirs including some portions of Coyote Creek (Coyote and Anderson Reservoirs), Packwood Creek (Anderson Reservoir), San Felipe Creek (Anderson Reservoir), Los Gatos Creek (Lexington, Vasona and Los Gatos Percolation Ponds), Stevens Creek, Uvas Creek and Guadalupe Creek. The surveys were conducted in limited stretches of the creeks and absence of data within the lease area boundaries does not indicate absence of red-legged frogs. Red-legged frogs were recorded for Uvas Reservoir but the majority of surveys were conducted outside of the lease areas along creeks that were considered to have more prime habitat than reservoirs (Allison Willy, USFWS).

As the coverage of surveyed areas is not complete, much information regarding habitat of the frog is lacking. Reservoirs and water courses containing bullfrogs or warm water game fish have fewer recent records of red-legged frogs (Federal Register, February, 2, 1994, page 4892). Most of the creek surveyed which did record presence of red-legged frogs also indicate threat from presence of bullfrogs.

Impacts from Rainbow Trout Stocking

The California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG) is responsible for the stocking of rainbow trout in lease area reservoirs managed by the SCCPRD and owned by the SCVWD. CDFG carries out the stocking activities on its own initiative with verbal approval granted by the SCCPRD and the SCVWD. Once the stocking of a facility is approved, stocking continues from year to year without further formal approvals (S. Poe, CDFG; Keith Anderson, CDFG).

In addition to the current stocking of rainbow trout, other game fish such as catfish and bass, have been introduced into the lease area waters through past stocking efforts or illegal introductions (K. Anderson, CDFG). Several warm water game fish species are listed as predators of the red-legged frog in the Federal Register listing (February 2, 1994, pp. 4891-4892).

While Comment 2-2 refers to the potential impact to red-legged frog from predation by introduced fish, Comment 2-3 describes impacts from stocked trout interbreeding with native trout species or introducing disease to native populations. Consultations with experts confirmed the potential for adverse impact described in this comment. Though survival rates for hatchery-raised trout are low due to starvation and high catch rates, there remains a potential for the surviving percentage of rainbow trout to interbreed with native trout species and predate, to some degree, on red-legged frog larvae. The degree of the impacts has not been characterized.

Impacts from Introduction of Bait Fish

The California Sport Fishing Regulations, Article 3, Section 4.20, addresses species allowed for use as bait fish in the South Central District which includes all of the lease areas.

> Article 3, 4.20. Bait Fish Use in the Valley and South Central Districts
> (a) Only the following fin fish may be used or possessed for use as bait:
> (1) Golden shiner, fathead minnow, mosquitofish, longjaw mudsucker, threadfin shad, inland silverside, lamprey, and staghorn sculpin (California Sport Fishing Regulations, Effective March 1, 1994 through February 29, 1996).

The SCCPRD, responsible for management of the lease area, allows fishing at County Parks under California Sport Fishing Regulations (Santa Clara County Ordinance B14-24.1). Only the State Fish and Game Commission has the authority to regulate fishing at lease area reservoirs and percolation ponds (R. Treanor, Director Fish and Game Commission).

The adverse impact to the red-legged frog by escaped or released bait fish is documented in the Federal Register petition of February 2, 1994. Consultations with Allison Willy and Mark Littlefied of U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and Mark Jennings, Ph.D., one of the petitioners for the listing of the species, confirm the potential threat that bait fish pose to the red-legged frog. The Federal Register listing describes predation of red-legged frog larvae by introduced bait fish such as mosquito fish. Mr. Jennings included fathead minnow as another predator of the red-legged frog.

Inspection of Fish Screens

Assessment of the effectiveness of fish screens at the outlets of impoundments within Santa Clara County is performed by the California Department of Fish and Game. Staff members from the Catchable Trout Program routinely inspect fish screens at SCVWD reservoirs where fish are stocked (S. Poe, CDFG). The screens cannot prevent smaller fish from passing. In some areas, such as Coyote Creek, CDFG stocks fish directly into the Creek, downstream of Anderson Dam.

To address Comment 2-2 and 2-3, text on pages 4-33 is amended as follows:

[*NEW TEXT IS ITALICIZED*, OLD TEXT IS ~~STRUCKOUT~~]

3. Reduction of the numbers of any locally unique, rare, threatened, or endangered species of animal on or off the project site?

All Parks: Protection of the riparian and wetland areas as suggested in above sections will provide protection for populations of Yellow and Red-legged frogs, the Western pond turtle, and Tiger salamanders. The Red-legged frog, Rana aurora draytoni, is currently proposed for Federal listing as an endangered species.

The reasons for the decline of the species are not clear but predation of tadpoles is one of the avenues for further research. If the frog is listed (scheduled for listing in the next six months), the *California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG) would* ~~SCCPRD may~~ need to assess whether the stocking of fish *by the CDFG* at the Reservoirs is having an adverse effect on red-legged frog populations (A. Launer, Center for Conservation Biology; *Allison Willy, US Fish and Wildlife Service; Mark Littlefield, US Fish and Wildlife Services; Carl Wilcox, California Department of Fish and Game; Mark Jennings, Ph.D., H.T. Harvey and Associates).*

In addition to predation by stocked rainbow trout, the introduction of bait fish species through the legal use of these species under the California Sports Fishing Regulations may be contributing to adverse impacts on the red-legged frog. (Mitigation to reduce the effects of these impacts to insignificance is detailed on page 4-35, 4.D.4)

The following table [on Draft Initial Study page 4-34] lists species sighted in or near the lease areas in the past decade. *With the exception of the above noted fishing-related activities,* no *other* recreational activity is identified that has impacted the number of any of these locally unique, rare, threatened or endangered species.

To address Comment 2-2 and 2-3, text on pages 4-35 is amended as follows:

4. Introduction of exotic or invasive animal species into an area or result in a barrier to the migration or movement of animals?

a. Stocking of Trout

All Parks: As part of the recreational experience, the *California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG)* ~~SCCPRD~~ does stock several of the ~~Reservoirs~~ *lease area reservoirs* ~~in the spring~~ with *hatchery-bred rainbow* trout. As temperatures rise, the lower elevation lakes warm *above the normal tolerance levels of rainbow trout and mortality of the stocked fish increase. The stocked trout have been pellet fed in the hatchery and do not readily adapt to foraging for other food sources (Mark Jennings, Ph.D., personal communication). Both a high mortality and a high catch rate by the fishing public contribute to low survivability of stocked rainbow trout (Sid Poe, CDFG).* ~~and trout do not survive.~~ *Some stocked trout, perhaps a very low percentage, could survive especially* ~~Trout do survive~~ in the upper elevation and deeper reservoirs such as Coyote Reservoir *(Mark Jennings, Ph.D, personal communication; Allison Willy, USFWS)*.

The hatchery-bred trout would ~~not~~ be considered an invasive or exotic species in these environments *(Allison Willy, USFWS; Mark Littlefield, USFWS; Mark Jennings, Ph.D. H.T. Harvey & Associates). In addition, the introduced trout could prey on larvae or eggs of the red-legged frog, a species proposed for listing as endangered or threatened under the Federal Endangered Species Act (Mark Jennings, Ph.D, personal communication; Allison Willy, USFWS). The stocking of rainbow trout in reservoirs or percolation ponds with populations of red-legged frog could adversely impact red-legged frog populations.*

"Take" is defined by the Endangered Species Act. In addition to direct harm to a species take may also include significant habitat modification or degradation where which actually kills or injures wildlife by significantly impairing essential behavorial patterns, including breeding, feeding or shelter (50 CFR § 17.3). Allowing the introduction of bait fish may contribute to a "take" under this latter definition.

In light of the possible listing of the species as endangered or threatened, and its current listing as a California Species of Special Concern, banning the use of live bait fish within the County Parks containing SCVWD lease areas would reduce adverse impacts to the red-legged frog. The following mitigation measures are proposed to address this adverse impact.

Impact: ***Use of live bait fish by the fishing public at the lease area reservoirs and percolation ponds potentially increases the risk of adverse impact to the red-legged frog, a species proposed for listing under the Federal Endangered Species Act.***

Parks: *ALL PARKS*

Mitigation: *Within 12 months of the approval of the lease agreement the Santa Clara County Parks and Recreation Commission shall petition the State Fish and Game Commission to amend the California Sport Fishing Regulations, Article 3, Section 4.20 (4) to include a prohibition on the use of live bait fish in the lease area reservoirs and percolation ponds.*

If the California Fish and Game Commission amends the California Sport Fishing Regulations as requested by the Parks and Recreation Commission, the following actions shall be effected:

1. *The SCCPRD shall coordinate with the CDFG for the posting of temporary signing noticing the ban on bait fish. Temporary signing shall be posted at entrances and principal access areas to Parks.*
2. *The SCCPRD shall coordinate with the CDFG in the development of a notice announcing the ban on bait fish at lease area reservoirs. The notice shall be mailed to all Santa Clara County outlets for live bait fish for posting.*

3. *The Santa Clara County Parks and Recreation Department shall coordinate with CDFG in the development of a permanent signing program incorporating interpretive and regulatory information about the bait fish ban.*

Effect: *Should reduce the potential for impacts on the red-legged frog from activities conducted pursuant to the lease agreement.*

Implementation: *Attached as a condition of the proposed lease.*

Monitoring: *SCCPRD Lease Status Report*

~~The concessionaire at Parkway Lakes stocks other fish species but California Department of Fish and Game normally inspects facilities to insure that dams are screened to prevent accidental escape of stocked fish species.~~

~~If the Red-legged frog is listed as a Federally endangered or threatened species, the impacts of predation by stocked fish on tadpoles would need to be assessed.~~

~~Stocking of fish in County reservoirs does not result in a significant adverse introduction of invasive animal species.~~

Response to Comment 2-4: The impacts of impoundments on instream aquatic life are outside the scope of this document which focuses on the impacts of the recreational use of the lease lands. Impoundment levels, water releases, attraction flows and barriers to migration of anadromous fish species are more related to the SCVWD mandate to provide public water supply. No reservoir water level or release is dictated by recreational demands, though recreation is a secondary consideration in SCVWD operations. Water levels at Calero Reservoir and a minimum stream flow for Uvas Creek are maintained for fish habitat and not for recreation (Bernie Goldner, SCVWD).

The SCVWD is currently drafting a Comprehensive Watershed Mangement Plan and has budgeted for a Fisheries Management Plan for the Coyote Creek Watershed. These two documents more appropriately address the issues raised in this Comment.

Response to Comment 2-5: The Park Master Planning Process is currently on hold pending the completion of the Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan by the SCVWD. All Park Master Plans must be in conformance with the Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan. In addition, the Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan and the Park Master Plans would be subject to separate CEQA review allowing USFWS further opportunity for comment.

Response to Comment 2-6: Potentially adverse impacts noted in Comment Letter 2 which could result from project approval have been reduced to insignificance by the addition of mitigation measures which will be included in the lease agreement.

COMMENT LETTER 3. CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME
BRIAN HUNTER, REGIONAL MANAGER, REGION 3

Response to Comment 3-1: Please see Response to Comment 2-2.

Response to Comment 3-2: Please see Response to Comment 2-3.

Response to Comment 3-3: Please also see Response to Comment 2-3. In response to the Department's comment, the following text is added to page 4-35 and to Section 5.0, Mitigation Measures:

[*NEW TEXT IS ITALICIZED*, OLD TEXT IS ~~STRUCKOUT~~]

5. Loss or deterioration of existing fish or wildlife habitat?

All Parks: The continuation of the lease agreement continues management of the areas by the SCCPRD. Many of these park areas will be the subject of future resource management plans during the life of the lease agreement. Implementation of resource management plans along with continued park stewardship should have an overall beneficial impact on existing fish and wildlife habitat.

Coyote Percolation Pond: *No recreation program has yet been developed for this area north of Parkway Lakes. To assure that any recreational activities permitted or planned for this area will not adversely impact animal and plant species or sensitive habitats, the following mitigation measure is proposed:*

Impact: *Recreational activities, such as fish stocking for recreational fishing or water skiing, could have an adverse impact on aquatic life at Coyote Percolation Pond.*

Parks: *COYOTE PERCOLATION POND*

Mitigation: *Prior to the granting of any special use permits, or the development of a park use plan, an environmental assessment of the proposed use on the Coyote Percolation Pond lease area shall be completed.*

Effect: *Should identify potential impacts and constraints within the lease area and avoid significant adverse impacts to animals, plants and sensitive habitats.*

Implementation: *Attached as a condition of the proposed lease.*

Monitoring: *SCCPRD Lease Status Report; a copy of the environmental assessment of the proposed use shall be attached.*

COMMENT LETTER 4. CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES, DRINKING WATER FIELD OPERATIONS BRANCH, MONTEREY DISTRICT, CATHERINE S. LING, P.E.

Response to Comment 4-1. In response to comments from the Department of Health Services, the following text changes have been made to the SCVWD/SCCPRD Lease Renewal Initial Study and Negative Declaration on pages 4-17 and 4-18 and to Section 5.0 Mitigation Measures:

[*NEW TEXT IS ITALICIZED*, OLD TEXT IS ~~STRUCKOUT~~]

6. Contamination or any detrimental effect on existing water quality or quantities of either surface or subsurface supplies (e.g., temperature changes, dissolved oxygen, turbidity)?

Maintaining water quality is the responsibility of the state, the RWQCB, and local water districts such as the SCVWD. Water quality objectives for inland surface waters, and beneficial uses for these waters have been defined for various waters of the state.

All Parks: To protect water quality there is a system-wide prohibition of swimming in reservoirs, as well as boat use limitations (e.g., 1 boat: 5-7 acres). The DHS and the SCVWD restrict swimming in emergency public water supply (terminal) reservoirs (Anderson, Coyote, Calero, Almaden) to maintain certain water quality standards. Swimming at the remaining reservoirs has been banned by SCCPRD due to a lack of life guard personnel. According to park rangers, the restriction of this activity requires constant monitoring by park staff during the peak season. ~~This creates the potential for violation of DHS water quality orders, and the possibility of injury from lack of supervision. To reduce incidences of illegal swimming, the following good practice measure is recommended.~~

Incidences of illegal swimming have the potential to result in a violation of DHS water quality orders at reservoirs which could be used as emergency sources to augment District water supply. Illegal swimming at Anderson, Coyote, Calero and Almaden reservoirs is considered a significant impact to water quality by the State Department of Health Services. Illegal swimming at all the reservoir parks increases the possibility of injury from lack of supervision. To reduce incidences of illegal swimming at the four reservoirs considered as sources of emergency supply, the following mitigation measure is recommended. This mitigation measure should be enforced at the remaining 8 lease areas as a good practice measure to prevent injury due to lack of supervision at these parks.

Impact: *Water Quality--Illegal swimming in reservoirs which are emergency water sources for the District have the potential to result in a violation of DHS water quality orders resulting in a significant water quality impact.*

Park(s): *Initial Focus on ALMADEN, ANDERSON, CALERO, AND COYOTE Reservoirs with application at all 12 lease areas.*

Mitigation: SCCPRD, in cooperation with SCVWD, should implement an improved *and aggressive* swimming prohibition sign program. Signs should convey both the "NO SWIMMING" message *in a multilingual format using* succinct language *and* ~~or~~ symbolism demonstrating the rationale for this restriction at the reservoirs. Additional NO SWIMMING signs should be placed in all likely areas where visitors access the lakeshore (e.g., *all developed recreation areas,* volunteer trails, *automobile pulloffs, etc*). *Phase 1 of the swimming prohibition sign program will focus on Almaden, Anderson, Calero and Coyote Reservoirs which are considered emergency water supply sources by the SCVWD. At the completion of Phase 1, Phase 2 signing will extend the new program to the remaining 8 lease areas and any other appropriate bodies of water owned by the SCVWD.*

Effect: *The impact would be reduced to a less than significant level (C. Ling, Department of Health Services, September 8, 1994).*

Monitoring: *SCCPRD Lease Status Report*

To conform with the above text additions, the following changes are made to Item 4.M, Public Health and Safety, page 4-61, paragraph 2.

[*NEW TEXT IS ITALICIZED*, OLD TEXT IS ~~STRUCKOUT~~]

To reduce incidences of illegal swimming the *mitigation measure* ~~good practice measure (~~ listed previously in Item B.6, is also recommended. ~~to reduce the incidence of unsupervised swimming.~~ The *mitigation measure* ~~good practice measure~~ recommend*s*~~ed~~ that the SCCPRD, in cooperation with SCVWD, ~~should~~ implement an improved *and aggressive* swimming prohibition sign program using signs conveying both the "NO SWIMMING" message and succinct *multilingual* language *and* ~~or~~ symbolism demonstrating the rationale for this restriction at the reservoirs. NO SWIMMING signs *shall* ~~should~~ be placed in all likely areas where visitors access the lakeshore (e.g., volunteer trails, roadside pulloffs).

Response to Comment 4-2. At the recommendation of the Commentor, the following text is added to SCVWD/SCCPRD Lease Renewal Initial Study page 4-21, paragraph 2.

[*NEW TEXT IS ITALICIZED*, OLD TEXT IS ~~STRUCKOUT~~]

Good Practice: In addition to DHS requirements, during peak seasons SCCPRD should provide additional chemical toilets around the perimeter of the reservoir. Toilets should be placed in access areas frequently used by park visitors, as identified by the park ranger. *The SCCPRD shall continue arrange for service and pumping of the chemical toilets based on the anticipated number of park users, especially during peak use months.*

COMMENT LETTER 5. DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES, DIVISION OF SAFETY OF DAMS, VERNON H. PERSSON, CHIEF.

Response to Comment 5-1: Comment noted.

COMMENT LETTER 6. SANTA CLARA COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH ART KAUPERT R.E.H.S., SENIOR ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SPECIALIST.

Response to Comment 6-1: The following text is added to pages 2-50, paragraph 6 of the SCVWD/SCCPRD Lease Renewal Initial Study:

[*NEW TEXT IS ITALICIZED*, OLD TEXT IS ~~STRUCKOUT~~]

Additional day use areas are further north along the western shore. *The* ~~at~~ Sandy Beach *Day Use Area* (a former swimming beach) *with parking for approximately 30 vehicles, has full restrooms, potable water and 10 picnic tables*. *T*~~t~~he boat launch area *has approximately 130 parking spaces which can accommodate 65 vehicles with boat trailers. The boat launch area also has full restrooms, potable water and approximately 5 picnic tables. The* San Ysidro Picnic Area *with parking for approximately 15 cars is a short distance from the restrooms available at the boat launch. There are 6 picnic tables at San Ysidro but no available potable water. In addition, there are* several pullouts with no facilities further north along the shoreline. ~~The boat launch area has approximately 130 parking spaces which can accommodate 65 boats and trailers.~~

Response to Comment 6-2. Comment noted.

Response to Comment 6-3. The third paragraph on page 4-71 of the SCVWD/SCCPRD Lease Renewal Initial Study is changed to:

[*NEW TEXT IS ITALICIZED*, OLD TEXT IS ~~STRUCKOUT~~]

The Noise Ordinance states that residential areas with~~in~~ single-family dwellings or duplexes should not have exterior noise levels exceeding 55 dBA from 7 am to 10 pm or interior noise levels exceeding 45 dBA from 10 pm to 7 am. These levels should not be exceeded more than 30 minutes in any hour of the stated time periods.

Response to Comment 6-4. The sixth paragraph on page 4-78 of the SCVWD/SCCPRD Lease Renewal Initial Study is changed to:

[*NEW TEXT IS ITALICIZED*, OLD TEXT IS ~~STRUCKOUT~~]

Uvas Reservoir: Noise levels are low, typical of a rural area in Santa Clara County. Recreational activities at Uvas Reservoir include non-power boating and fishing. The Reservoir is on Uvas Road, a two-lane road which serves a rural *residential* community and recreational drivers. ~~Through traffic would use a multi-lane freeway such as Highway 101.~~ The area was not considered as a noise impact area, i.e, having ~~greater~~ an Ldn of greater than 55 dBA, for the noise study recently undertaken for the County General Plan update (Pack 1994).

Response to Comments 6-5 and 6-6. The following text is added to the fourth paragraph on page 4-79 of the SCVWD/SCCPRD Lease Renewal Initial Study:

[*NEW TEXT IS ITALICIZED*, OLD TEXT IS ~~STRUCKOUT~~]

The lease area is bounded to the east by Highway 17, the west by University Avenue, on the south by Blossom Hill Road and a residential neighborhood to the north. Given the high ambient noise level in the lease area vicinity, and the scarcity of recreational activities in the northern end of the Park near the residential area, noise generated within the lease area would not expose sensitive receptors to unusually high noise levels. *The Los Gatos Police Department has received only a few complaints from surrounding residents regarding noise from Vasona Park over the past ten years and these complaints were principally in response to a few widely-attended special events that were held in the Park (L. Telfer, Los Gatos Police Department).*

COMMENT LETTER 7. AUDUBON SOCIETY, TRISH MULVEY

Response to Comment 7-1: The following changes are made to the third paragraph on page 2-58 of the SCVWD/SCCPRD Lease Renewal Initial Study:

[*NEW TEXT IS ITALICIZED*, OLD TEXT IS ~~STRUCKOUT~~]

No swimming, boating or any form of body contact recreation besides fishing is allowed at ~~Almaden~~ *Guadalupe* Reservoir. The SCCPRD has not actively encouraged public recreation at ~~Almaden~~ *Guadalupe* Reservoir due to the issue of contamination of sediments and fish. Guadalupe Reservoir is open for day use only. There is no entrance station to the Reservoir, no fees are collected and no records of daily visitation are kept. There are no restroom facilities nor parking areas provided.

Response to Comment 7-2: The fourth sentence of the fourth paragraph on Page 2-84 of the SCVWD/SCCPRD Lease Renewal Initial Study is changed to:

[*NEW TEXT IS ITALICIZED*, OLD TEXT IS ~~STRUCKOUT~~]

There are~~a~~ 25 picnic tables and grills, potable water and a restroom.

COMMENT LETTER 8. SANTA CLARA COUNTY CATTLEMAN'S ASSOCIATION, JOHN SCHERER, SECRETARY

No response required.

COMMENT LETTER 9. LIBBY LUCAS, 174 YERBA SANTA AVENUE, LOS ALTOS

Response to Comment 9-1: The conclusion of this Initial Study is that the continuation of recreational use of SCVWD lease areas under the management of the SCCPRD is not resulting in a significant adverse impact to water quality, the prime mandate of the SCVWD.

Water supplied by the SCVWD must meet the standards set forth in the Federal Clean Water Act (1972), Federal Safe Drinking Water Act (1974) and State Clean Water Act. These acts require all water providers with more than 15 connections or serving more than 25 people to treat water to meet pre-set levels. The treatment of drinking water acts as a safety net even for relatively clean water sources as all surface water sources are subject to periodic contamination from runoff water, underground seeps, air pollution or bacteriological contamination. Regular treatment of water assures that the public is protected from fluctuations in the quality of the water supply.

The SCVWD receives water from a variety of sources: the Central Valley Project, the State Water Project and stored water from the Almaden/Calero and Anderson/Coyote Reservoir Systems. Though monitoring of stored or piped water may not demonstrate exceedences of State levels, these mixed waters from a variety of sources are difficult to accurately and continually assess for pre-treatment quality. Water from the four SCVWD reservoirs contain the pollutants that are present in the respective watershed such as pollutants from roadway runoff, bacteria and pathogens from cattle grazing and septic systems in the watershed. Water piped in from the Central Valley Project and the State Water Project contain contaminants from large scale agriculture as well as industrial activities in the Sacramento River Delta. With the mixing of all water from these several sources, drinking water treatment is the only assurance that the public will be protected and legal requirements met.

While accepting that drinking water supplied by the SCVWD must, by law, be treated before distribution to consumers, many of the points made by Commentor regarding improvement and restoration of the SCVWD watershed lands will be addressed in the Comprehensive Reservoir Watershed Management Plan being drafted by the SCVWD. This Watershed Management Plan, and the various Park Master Plans to be completed once the Watershed Management Plan is approved, will identify the uses within the watershed that conform with clean water and sensitive species protection goals. The individual Park Master Plans must be shown to comply with the findings of the Comprehensive Reservoir Watershed Management Plan.

10. OTHER TEXT EDITS

[*NEW TEXT IS ITALICIZED*, OLD TEXT IS ~~STRUCKOUT~~]

Page 2-60: The first sentence of the last paragraph on page 2-60 is changed as follows:

Geography. Lexington Dam ~~floods~~ *discharges to* the north/south Los Gatos Creek channel at the base of Sierra Azul, a well-defined mountain block at the northern edge of the Santa Cruz Mountains in the western end of the Santa Clara Valley.

Page 2-84: The ninth (last) sentence of the fourth paragraph is changed as follows:

The southern end of the lease area corresponds roughly to the first day use parking area in the upstream section of the park, where the Creek crosses to the west side of Stevens Canyon Road (see Figure 2.1~~1~~*0*.E., "Area 1").

SCVWD/SCCPRD
LEASE RENEWAL AGREEMENT
FINAL MITIGATED
NEGATIVE DECLARATION AND
INITIAL STUDY

ATTACHMENT A
PART 4

MITIGATION MONITORING PLAN

MITIGATION MONITORING PLAN

Attachment A, Part 4

The following mitigation measures are recommended to reduce potentially significant project impacts to insignificance and are required to be monitored. For those measures which are to be attached as a condition of the proposed lease, the District shall monitor implementation by requiring the SCCPRD to submit a letter annually which reports on the status of the lease requirements. This letter is referred to as the SCCPRD Lease Status Report.

IMPACT: *Water Quality*--Illegal swimming in reservoirs which are emergency water sources for the District has the potential to result in a violation of DHS water quality orders resulting in a significant water quality impact. *Potentially significant.*

Park(s): Initial Focus on ALMADEN, ANDERSON, CALERO, AND COYOTE Reservoirs with application at all 12 lease areas.

Mitigation: SCCPRD, in cooperation with SCVWD, should implement an improved and aggressive swimming prohibition sign program. Signs should convey both the "NO SWIMMING" message in a multilingual format using succinct language and symbolism demonstrating the rationale for this restriction at the reservoirs. Additional NO SWIMMING signs should be placed in all likely areas where visitors access the lakeshore (e.g., all developed recreation areas, volunteer trails, automobile pulloffs, etc). Phase 1 of the swimming prohibition sign program will focus on Almaden, Anderson, Calero and Coyote Reservoirs which are considered emergency water supply sources by the SCVWD. At the completion of Phase 1, Phase 2 signing will extend the new program to the remaining 8 lease areas and any other appropriate bodies of water owned by the SCVWD.

Effect: The impact would be reduced to a less than significant level (C. Ling, Department of Health Services, September 8, 1994).

Implementation: Attached as a condition of the proposed lease.

Monitoring: SCCPRD Lease Status Report

IMPACT: *Animal Life*-Use of live bait fish by the fishing public at the lease area reservoirs and percolation ponds potentially increases the risk of adverse impact to the red-legged frog, a species proposed for listing under the Federal Endangered Species Act. *Potentially significant.*

Parks: ALL PARKS

Mitigation: Within 12 months of the approval of the lease agreement the Santa Clara County Parks and Recreation Commission shall petition the State Fish and Game Commission to amend the California Sport Fishing Regulations, Article 3, Section 4.20 (4) to include a prohibition on the use of live bait fish in the lease area reservoirs and percolation ponds.

If the California Fish and Game Commission amends the California Sport Fishing Regulations as requested by the Parks and Recreation Commission, the following actions shall be effected:

1. The SCCPRD shall coordinate with the CDFG for the posting of temporary signing noticing the ban on bait fish. Temporary signing shall be posted at entrances and principal access areas to Parks.

2. The SCCPRD shall coordinate with the CDFG in the development of a notice announcing the ban on bait fish at lease area reservoirs. The notice shall be mailed to all Santa Clara County outlets for live bait fish for posting.

3. The Santa Clara County Parks and Recreation Department shall coordinate with CDFG in the development of a permanent signing program incorporating interpretive and regulatory information about the bait fish ban.

Effect: Should reduce the potential for impacts on the red-legged frog from activities conducted pursuant to the lease agreement.

Implementation: Attached as a condition of the proposed lease.

Monitoring: SCCPRD Lease Status Report

IMPACT: *Animal Life/Plant Life*-Recreational activities or actions to support recreation, such as fish stocking, could have an adverse impact on aquatic life at Coyote Percolation Pond. *Potentially significant.*

Parks: COYOTE PERCOLATION POND

Mitigation: Prior to the granting of any special use permits, or the development of a park use plan, an environmental assessment of the proposed use on the Coyote Percolation Pond lease area shall be completed.

Effect: Should identify potential impacts and constraints within the lease area and avoid significant adverse impacts to animals, plants and sensitive habitats.

Implementation: Attached as a condition of the proposed lease.

Monitoring: SCCPRD Lease Status Report; a copy of the environmental assessment of the proposed use shall be attached.

IMPACT: *Public Health & Safety*-Lack of continuous fencing around the dam spillway creates a hazardous condition for the public. *Potentially significant.*

Park(s): ALMADEN

Mitigation: As a condition of lease renewal, SCVWD shall install a sign warning the public of the hazard and seek DOSD approval to install approximately 100 feet of continuous chain-link fencing along all exposed edges associated with the spillway.

Effect: This impact would be reduced to a less than significant level.

Implementation: Attached as a condition of the proposed lease.

Monitoring: SCCPRD Lease Status Report

IMPACT: *Public Health & Safety*-Possible adverse impact on human health and safety resulting from a limited number of and the poor condition of existing warning signs along the perimeter of the reservoir regarding mercury contamination of fish. *Potentially significant.*

Park(s): ALMADEN, GUADALUPE

Mitigation: As a condition of lease renewal, SCCPRD shall implement an improved signage program at Almaden and Guadalupe reservoirs. Existing warning signage shall be replaced, and additional multilingual warning signs shall be positioned at conspicuous volunteer trail cutting locations.

Effect: This impact would be reduced to a less than significant level.

Implementation: Attached as a condition of the proposed lease.

Monitoring: SCCPRD Lease Status Report